

STARS AND STRIPES®

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2004

Joint exercise aims to build relations

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Sharing painful memories

German veterans of World War II are beginning to describe experiences as the country comes to terms with the past

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German Hein Severloh, known as the 'Beast of Omaha Beach'

GLENN FRANKEL
Washington Post

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY
CHRISTOPHER SIX
Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

War

Baghdad airport changeover: Australia will withdraw about 60 military air traffic controllers from Iraq next month after transferring responsibility for Baghdad's International Airport to civilian staff, Defense Minister Robert Hill said Saturday.

The Royal Australian Air Force personnel at the airport in Iraq's capital have been running operations since May last year, overseeing about 175,000 takeoffs and landings, Hill said in a statement.

Australia will maintain the level of its overall deployment in Iraq, with an army training program extended by six months and with a medical team and a scaled-down air traffic control team introduced to keep its numbers up to about 850 personnel.

Japanese criticism: A delegation of Japan's resurgent opposition party, concluding a four-day series of meetings with U.S. officials, accused Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of turning his back on popular opinion by extending the mission of Japanese troops in Iraq.

While stressing the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship, Kouhei Ohtsuka, a legislator for the Democratic Party, said relations could ultimately suffer as popular opinion continues to turn against involvement in Iraq.

The Democratic Party made significant gains in Japanese parliamentary elections July 11. Ohtsuka said that as Japan developed a stronger two-party system, it was important to communicate the party's positions on issues including international security to U.S. leaders.

World

Japanese elections: Japan's upper house of Parliament elected its first female speaker on Friday as lawmakers gathered for a special session after elections two weeks ago.

Chikage Ogi, 71, a veteran lawmaker from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was voted in at the beginning of the session, upper house official Yoko Murakami said.

China piracy: U.S. and Chinese authorities in Shanghai have arrested six people, including two Americans, suspected of running an international counterfeit DVD smuggling ring, police said.

The group is suspected of using the Internet to sell about 100,000 counterfeit DVDs, which were shipped to buyers in 25 countries. Officers in Shanghai seized more than 210,000 pirate DVDs and cash worth about \$93,600, he said.



Young flood victims wait for help Saturday in India's Khigdon Taltaola district in Bangladesh. Floods have killed 1,406 people in South Asia.

South Asia flooding: Flood-weakened riverbanks collapsed as water engulfed more than 250 homes in Bangladesh, adding to villagers' misery after a month of monsoon rains that have already submerged much of this impoverished country, relief officials said Saturday.



Guantanamo detainee hearings: U.S. prisoners and terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are getting their first chance to argue for their freedom. Above is the facility where the Combatant Status Review Tribunals (CSRT) for detained enemy combatants started Friday. A panel of military officers decide whether each prisoner held at Guantanamo is indeed an enemy combatant, as the military contends. The first hearing at the Navy prison camp is the government's most visible response since a Supreme Court ruling last month granted new legal rights to about 600 foreign-born men held by the United States.

Heavy rains and melting Himalayan snow have swamped two-thirds of Bangladesh and parts of neighboring India and Nepal since June.

The South Asia floods have killed 1,406 people, 489 of them in Bangladesh, according to government figures and those compiled by The Associated Press.

Taiwan arms sales: China's president has voiced strong opposition to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan in a telephone conversation Friday with President Bush, the Beijing government said.

President Hu Jintao told Bush China would "absolutely not tolerate Taiwan independence and absolutely not allow anyone to split Taiwan from China," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on its Web site.

Taiwan, which lies 100 miles off China's southern coast, is considering a plan to spend \$18 billion on anti-missile systems, planes and submarines from the United States.

Iran nuclear program: Iran vowed Saturday not to give up its uranium enrichment program and confirmed that it has restarted building centrifuges for that purpose.

Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Iran has not resumed enriching uranium, but restarted work on centrifuges in response to the failure of Britain, Germany and France to help close Iran's nuclear dossier in June.

Diplomats said this week that Tehran has restarted equipment used to make uranium hexafluoride, which — when injected into centrifuges and spun — can be enriched to low levels to be used as fuel to generate electricity or to levels high enough to make nuclear weapons.

Kharrazi said Iran restarted the centrifuge construction after the three European countries failed to help close Iran's nuclear

dossier despite promising in February to work toward closure by June if Iran stopped making centrifuges. It did so in April.

States

Halliburton lawsuit: Halliburton has sued three former employees who complained about the company's plan to stop providing health insurance for retirees who are eligible for Medicare.

The lawsuit was filed on Jan. 21, shortly after the retirees, including former Halliburton vice president of human resources Paul Bryant, sent a letter complaining about the change. Bryant, 58, retired from Halliburton in 1999.

The case hinges on whether the 1998 merger agreement between Halliburton and Dresser Industries required Halliburton to keep paying benefits to its 4,000 salaried retirees. Bryant, who served on the negotiating committee during the merger, and the two other retired executives argue that it did.

'Girls Gone Wild' suits: The marketers of the sexually explicit "Girls Gone Wild" videos and DVDs agreed Friday to pay nearly \$1.1 million to settle government claims that the company shipped unordered products and then charged customers.

As part of the settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, California-based Mantra Films Inc. will pay more than \$548,000 to people who received the videos or DVDs and returned them but did not get a refund for shipping costs.

The FTC said about 84,000 customers would receive refunds of at least \$5.

Fast-food lawsuits: You can super-size, but you can't sue.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Friday signed a bill barring people from filing lawsuits claiming a restaurant caused weight gain, obesity or other health problems.

Illinois joins 11 other states to enact such laws, 10 of which have been signed since March, according to the National Restaurant Association. Louisiana led the way with its frivolous-lawsuit law last summer.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Gunmen kill chief of Iraqi institute

By PAUL GARWOOD
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen killed the head of a state-run teachers' institute as he left a mosque after prayers, police said Saturday, an attack in apparent retribution for his refusal to stop working for Iraqi authorities.

Militants had previously warned Ismail al-Kilabi, the head of the Mahmoudiyah Teachers Institute, 20 miles south of Baghdad, to quit his job after the transfer of power from U.S. occupation forces to the interim government, police Lt. Ala'a Hussein said.

Iraqi militants have increasingly targeted police and other Iraqi officials they deem collaborators with coalition forces as part of their 15-month-old insurgency.

Early Saturday, two mortars exploded in a garden in northern Baghdad's Shalchia suburb, injuring two sleeping children, hospital official Dr. Taleb Mustafa said.

Also Saturday, the U.S. military said that 20 Iraqi fighters were killed in fierce fighting between Marines, backed by Iraqi security forces, and insurgents between 7:30 p.m. Thursday and 1 a.m. Friday in the city of Fallujah.

Hospital officials had previously said at least 13 were killed and 14 wounded. Many of these wounded, including at least one child, appeared to be civilians injured in U.S. airstrikes, hospital officials said.

"We want to show the Iraqi people that this money is being used for their benefit and do it as quickly as we can," Powell said.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Barham Saleh, said \$9 billion in U.S. reconstruction money would be disbursed by December.

U.S. lawmakers and others have said the administration has moved too slowly in converting \$18 billion in reconstruction aid into projects on the ground in Iraq. To date only \$458 million has been spent, officials said, blaming red tape.

Later Friday, NATO countries agreed to send a 40-member team to Iraq as soon as possible to begin training local security forces in a bid to curb the insurgency.

In another wave of hostage crises here, efforts intensified Saturday to secure the release of seven foreign drivers — three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian — kidnapped by militants.

The militants had threatened to behead one hostage by Friday night if their demands, which included the Kuwaiti company's withdrawal from Iraq, were not met.

The deadline passed without any news on the men.

In Jordan, relatives of four Jordanian truck drivers held by a different group joined with fellow drivers in chanting "Death to America" during a protest march Friday they said the kidnappers had demanded as a condition for the hostages' release.

After the demonstration, the kidnappers called the relatives, saying they were satisfied and would release the men Saturday, said Mohammed Abu Jaafar, whose brother Ahmad is one of the hostages.

Police Col. Dhafir Sabah said the Iraqis were arrested Friday and Saturday without passports and were being held in Basra by police, who planned to return them to Iran.

Police Col. Dhafir Sabah said the Iraqis were arrested Friday and Saturday without passports and were being held in Basra by police, who planned to return them to Iran.



Black Hawk helicopters from the 82nd Airborne Division patrol the skies over central Iraq in November 2003. The Army's helicopter corps is overhauling itself after a series of setbacks. Army officials, however, insist combat helicopters are a vital tool that fight in ways no other hardware can match.

Army defends choppers' role, works to deal with problems

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army is overhauling its helicopter corps after high-profile setbacks in Iraq.

A battle lost, several crashes and the cancellation of the new Comanche stealth helicopter have led critics to suggest the aircraft is too fragile, vulnerable and ineffective for the modern battlefield.

Army officials insist combat helicopters can fight in unmatched ways.

"You can't get one commander in Iraq to let one helicopter come home," said Brig. Gen. E. J. Sinclair, commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., in an interview.

"Fixed-wings (jets) are great, ... but can they get down and do the rooting in a low level in the cities? Can they see down the alleyways? Right now they can't," he said.

Army officials point to a plan to take the \$14.6 billion intended for the Comanche program and use that money to deal with problems in the helicopter service.

A new scout helicopter is planned. Upgrades are in the works for aging Black Hawk and Chinook transports and Apache gunships. Pilots will get more cockpit training before joining combat units.

But to critics such as retired Gen. Merrill McPeak, a former Air Force chief of staff, helicopters are too slow and easy to detect.

He says they should stay close to the front lines or work in tandem with Air Force strike jets.

"You start operating helicopters over hostile territory, I think you've got very serious problems," McPeak said.

Other missions also met with

problems in Iraq. One was scrubbed because of sandstorms and poor visibility. In a second, helicopter conductors a successful attack against the Republican Guards' Medina division, but two helicopters crashed during a dust storm at takeoff.

During the postwar occupation, Iraqi insurgents have shot down several helicopters, including

The Army is planning to build almost 800 new helicopters, including a new scout to replace the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior, and a new utility helicopter. Attack helicopter companies are expanding from six Apaches to eight.

"At any time, if you have six, two of them are going to be in maintenance, so you really have four aircraft for a mission. That

"At any time, if you have six, two of them are going to be in maintenance, so you really have four aircraft for a mission. That really doesn't give you enough combat capability."

Brig. Gen. E. J. Sinclair
U.S. Army Aviation Center

troop-filled transports, which had led to heavy loss of life.

Sinclair said commanders studied each enemy shooting and altered their tactics.

A helicopter has not gone down to enemy fire since April 11.

In combat, pilots have been warned to race and strafe and dive at their targets, leaving themselves exposed to enemy fire for only a short time.

"We went through every aircraft that was shot down and confirmed what shot it down, how it was shot down, where it was shot down," Sinclair said.

"We changed the way we fight. We're being shot at every day, but our soldiers are adapting to it."

In addition, commanders emphasize the helicopter's ability to support troops in urban areas, lingering overhead to hit concealed targets that jets and artillery are unable to target.

really doesn't give you enough combat capability," said Sinclair, an Apache pilot who was an assistant division commander for the 101st Airborne during the Iraq invasion.

Other changes are in line with the Army's efforts to make smaller combat units more self-sufficient. For example, divisions will get more Black Hawk and Chinook transports to ferry troops and equipment.

The money for all the changes was intended for the construction of 121 RAH-66 Comanches, which the Army canceled in February.

Sinclair said the helicopter was built to evade radar defenses.

But the chief threat to helicopters in Iraq and other recent conflicts has been portable heat-seeking missiles, something the Comanche was not well-protected against.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, July 30, 909 U.S. servicemenbers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of that total, 235 died of hostile action and 235 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 771 U.S. troops have died — 565 as a result of hostile ac-

tion and 206 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

■ The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Spc. Joseph F. Hernandez, 21, Derby, Ky., died Thursday, in Hawijah, Iraq, when he was shot while on guard duty, assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Pfc. Ken W. Leisten, 20, Cornelius, Ore., died Wednesday in Taji, Iraq, when his vehicle struck an explosive, assigned to the Army National Guards 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, Corvallis, Ore.

Re-creating a rodeo



Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Capt. Jim Cudney of 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery with the Wyoming Army National Guard relaxes by practicing his roping skills while entertaining other members of his unit in Baghdad.

Afghan war, guards killed in attack on truck

BY NOOR KHAN

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gunmen killed a mayor and four of his bodyguards in an ambush in southern Afghanistan on Saturday, and a mine injured three election workers.

Two rockets also exploded inside a building in the Afghan capital overnight in what NATO troops trying to shore up the country's shaky security said was an attempt to lure police and troops into a trap.

Mayor Thawos Khan died when assailants riding in two cars opened fire on his pickup truck in Khana Shien district of Helmand province, said Mohammed Wali, a spokesman for the provincial government. Four guards were also killed and a fifth was wounded.

Government troops later surrounded a village where the at-

tackers were believed to be hiding.

"We will arrest them and then we'll see if they are Taliban," Wali said.

The three election workers were seriously injured when a mine exploded near their vehicle in central Uruzgan province on Friday, Gov. Jan Mohammed said. Wali said two suspected Taliban had been arrested in the area, including one called Mullah Maqab.

"They admitted laying the mine for the registration vehicle," Wali said.

In Kabul, two rockets exploded late Friday inside a ruined building, injuring no one, the city's international security force said.

Investigators suspected that the rockets were supposed to detonate at intervals so that security forces would be hit by the second blast, spokesman Cdr. Chris Henderson said.

On warfront, troops and contractors not equal

BY RENAE MERLE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When he was deployed in Iraq, 31-year-old Vincent Foster assured his mother that despite the long hours and what he called "skirmishes" with insurgents, he was where he belonged.

Foster was working for Cochise Consulting Inc., securing stockpiles of old munitions, when he was killed by a roadside bomb outside Baiji, in the northern part of the country. He died on the way to the hospital.

Foster, a former Marine scout sniper, is one of at least 110 contractors working for U.S. firms who have died in Iraq, according to industry estimates. Experts say the number of casualties could be far higher, given the tens of thousands of private contractors who have taken over key duties for the military. The Pentagon does not keep an official count, and many companies do not announce when their employees in Iraq are killed. By comparison, there were seven contractor deaths in the 1991 Gulf War, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office, formerly the General Accounting Office.

The deaths have created an overlooked subculture of war-related grief, one in which contractors' families confront a bureaucracy that is largely inventing procedures on the fly. Inconsistent corporate responses and murky government procedures exacerbate families' already raw emotions. Unlike when soldiers and officers die in the line of duty, few fixed rules apply to contractor casualties.

"If he had still been with the Marines, he would have gotten a Purple Heart, I think he would have, for bravery," said Foster's mother, Susan Foster. "It kind of irks me a little bit, that he was working with the military" and not being recognized for it, she said.

"He believed so much in what he was

doing, the whole patriotism thing down the line."

Contractors are paid more than soldiers are, but their life insurance policies are usually not as generous or as ironclad. A dead soldier's family is guaranteed life insurance and death benefits.

And although the military generally transports soldiers' and contractors' bodies together from Iraq to Kuwait, they are treated differently upon arrival. The military aims to fly soldiers' bodies to Dover Port Mortuary in Delaware within three days of their arrival at the Kuwait processing center. Contractors generally have to find a commercial flight to ship the bodies, and that can take time.

It took nearly a week for Foster's body to be returned to the United States. When his mother requested a 21-gun salute for his funeral, the Marines did not respond. Foster received the honor only after his family members asked their senator, Craig Thomas, R-Wyo., for help.

The military handles the repatriation of contractors when they cannot be identified immediately or if a company requests help, military officials said. But such assistance requires approval from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait and the State Department, which can take four or five days, they said.

The Pentagon is attempting to streamline the process, said Maj. Thomas Booker of the Theater Mortuary Affairs Office in Kuwait. The goal is to have contractors' bodies returned quickly, like those of soldiers, he said. "That's something that we have been battling on this end to try to get the process speeded up," Booker said.

Yet some changes the Pentagon is proposing could complicate — not streamline — the process, contractors say. Under a Pentagon proposal that would shift the job to contractors, the military would no longer ship contractors' remains from Iraq to Kuwait.

Stan Soloway, president of the Professional Services Council, an industry group,

"If he had still been with the Marines, he would have gotten a Purple Heart, I think he would have, for bravery."

Susan Foster

mother of contractor killed by roadside bomb outside Baiji, Iraq

said given the lack of commercial flights and the problems with ground transportation, it is unrealistic to assume a contractor can quickly move a body out of Iraq. "If a contract employee is deep in theater, it may not be possible for the contractor to evacuate the body," he said. "It's important that the rules reflect the realities on the ground and contain the necessary flexibility."

The Pentagon also is proposing that contractors be required to notify families of killed employees in person — as the military does for soldiers. That could require companies to dispatch representatives across the country, delaying notification, Soloway said.

There are also questions about how contractors who distinguish themselves during the war should be honored. The Army says a "handful" of Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts, which are only available to soldiers, have been improperly awarded to civilian contractors. The Army has said the medals awarded to contractors will be revoked.

Contractors are eligible for the Defense of Freedom Medal, which was created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to honor civilian Pentagon employees killed in the attacks. None have been awarded to contractors working in Iraq, although one award is

under consideration, according to the Pentagon.

Even small gestures to honor contractors can be difficult. After Scott Helvenston, a Blackwater Security Consulting employee and former Navy Seal, was killed while guarding a military convoy delivering food to troops, Helvenston's family set up a scholarship fund in his honor. His friends wanted to publicize the scholarship during an event organized by Florida Representative Baxter Troutman in Helvenston's home town.

Eddy Twyfod, Helvenston's friend, said their efforts were rebuffed by Troutman's staff because Helvenston was a private contractor. "They'd be naming streets after him if he was still enlisted," Twyfod said.

Troutman said the event, which was attended by 8,000 people, including first lady Laura Bush and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, was not meant to discount the service of contractors. "This was for the servicemen and women who are not there by choice; to me, that makes a difference," he said. "If I am an employee of a company and don't like what I am being subjected to, then I can come back home" — an option not open to soldiers.

Families of some civilian contractors say a bigger problem is the disparities in death benefits. Most soldiers carry \$250,000 in life insurance and their spouses are eligible for nearly \$1,000 a month in benefits. Those benefits can be denied only if there is misconduct on the part of the soldier, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In contrast, contractors' insurance coverage, which is mandated by the Defense Base Act, does not require a life insurance policy. It does guarantee families \$250 to \$1,000 week in benefits, depending on the contractor's salary, but those benefits can be withheld if the contractor does not die during a work-related activity, industry experts said.

Staff researchers Madonna Lebling and Julie Tate and staff reporter Ellen McCarthy contributed to this report.

Powell visits troops at U.S. Embassy in Iraq

Secretary of state takes time out of trip to talk with servicemembers

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Diplomacy took a back seat for an hour or so Friday when Secretary of State Colin Powell visited with troops at the U.S. Embassy during a surprise visit to Iraq.

The retired Army general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was in Baghdad to meet with leaders of Iraq's transitional government, but he also took time to meet with military members.

"He praised the military for their efforts," said embassy spokesman Pete Mitchell. "It was very well received."

The troops agreed. "Marines love having him around," said Gunnery Sgt. Lance Chwan of the embas-

sy's Marine Corps security guard detachment. "It lets them know that people appreciate them at the top of the food chain."

Army Master Sgt. Salvatore Buccellato said that Powell spoke for seven minutes before wading into the crowd for handshakes and photos.

"He said we have a very important job," Buccellato said. "We're making history and we should remember what we did here."

Buccellato said he really appreciated the

visit but wished Powell could visit troops outside Baghdad.

"This produced a lot of morale," he said. "It would produce a lot more in the forward areas."

Buccellato added that he and Powell share a few things in common: the same hometown of New York City and Vietnam service with the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

This was Powell's first visit since sovereignty was passed back to the Iraqis.

"He genuinely wanted to be here," said Army Lt. Col. Tony Cusimano, who works with the Iraqi Ministry of Oil. "His words were from the heart. [They] touched me, moved me."

"To see the faces on the soldiers and Marines, they were enthralled," Cusimano

said. Lt. Col. Robert Richins of the 1st Cavalry Division's Governance Support Team said it was the second time he's seen Powell in a combat zone.

"I told him, 'Thanks for supporting us like you did when I was in Somalia,'" Richins said. Richins said that Powell remembered his April 1993 visit there as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Powell's words to the troops weren't all serious, though.

"He also made a joke [about service in Iraq] ... that there's going to be a lot of 'BS-ing' out of this," Buccellato said.

"[Powell said] over the years ... the stories may grow," Richins added. "He said he did it, too."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.strips.com

GI faces court-martial in death of suspected insurgent

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

The court-martial of a 25th Infantry Division soldier accused of killing an Iraqi man starts Tuesday at the 1st Infantry Division headquarters in Tikrit, Iraq.

Pfc. Edward L. Richmond Jr. of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, is accused of shooting Muhamad Husain Kadir in the head as soldiers were arresting him during a roundup of suspected insurgents near Kirkuk on Feb. 28.

Richmond, a native of Gonzales, La., was charged with murder under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and was referred to a court-martial by Maj. Gen. John Batiste in June.

Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall will hear motions from Richmond's defense attorney, Capt. Jennifer Crawford, on Tuesday, according to an e-mail from Army spokesman Capt. Neal O'Brien in response to questions from Stars and Stripes.

Richmond also may be arraigned Tuesday, with Crav-

ford entering a guilty or innocent plea on his behalf. He will face a mandatory life sentence if convicted.

The soldier's father, Edward Richmond Sr., is expected to attend the trial, The Associated Press reported in early July.

Richmond's Hawaii-based battalion is part of the 25th ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which has been operating in northern Iraq since January.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.strips.com

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CATWOMAN

Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

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Ariano	10-16 Sep
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Bald	5-12 Aug
Bamberg	13-19 Aug
Baumholder	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Bitburg	10-16 Sep
Camp Doha	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Darmstadt	3-9 Sep
Daxheim	20-26 Aug
Friedberg	17-23 Sep
Giebelstadt	3-9 Sep
Grafenwoehr	13-19 Aug
Hannau	13-19 Aug
Heidelberg	13-19 Aug
Hohenfels	20-26 Aug
Kitzingen	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Kosovo	01-07 Oct
Lakehurst	13-19 Aug
Mannheim	5-12 Aug
Mildenhall	5-12 Aug
Ramstein Hercules	20-26 Aug
Ramstein Nightingale	13-19 Aug
Rhein Main	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Spangdahlem	3-9 Sep
Tizil	17-23 Sep
Valhingen	20-26 Aug
Vincenza	17-23 Sep
Wiesloch	5-12 Aug
Wuppertal	5-12 Aug
Wiesbaden	13-19 Aug
Wuerzburg	5-12 Aug

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

THEATERS

German vets begin painful looks at past

By GLENN FRANKEL
The Washington Post

METZINGEN, Germany — The shifting current funneled the landing craft toward the eastern end of Omaha Beach, where they disgorged men directly below Hein Severloh's camouflaged machine gun nest. He recalls emptying belt after belt of ammunition, raking the shoreline for hours as waves upon waves of American GIs struggled through the blood-red surf.

"I did not shoot for the lust of killing, but only to stay alive," said Severloh, 81, a tall, soft-spoken man who said he must have shot hundreds of Americans on June 6, 1944. "I knew if only a single one survived, he would shoot me."

For years Severloh told no one but his wife of what he did on D-Day. He said it was partly out of fear he would be labeled a Nazi and a killer, but also because fellow Germans didn't want to discuss World War II or hear about the experiences of army veterans. But over the past few years, historians, journalists and admirers have beaten a path to his farmhouse in this sleepy village in western Germany. Severloh has published a war memoir, been interviewed repeatedly by television, newspapers and magazines and been the subject of a televised documentary. He said he is gratified and amazed at the attention he has received.

As this country focuses on World War II more than 60 years after it began, Severloh's memories of the Allied invasion of Europe are part of an examination long suppressed by Germans.

After decades of shame, fear and self-imposed silence, German soldiers and civilian victims are now venturing to describe their perspectives of the war. Beyond the traditional portrait of World War II as the epic battle of good vs. evil, the emerging view reveals a more complex narrative. Severloh's story has become part of the modern mix.

"We have new generations with new questions, and people are interested in what happened during the war without prejudging," said Johannes Tüchel, director of the German Resistance Memorial Center in Berlin, a museum devoted to chronicling opposition to



GLENN FRANKEL/The Washington Post

Gerhard Beick, left, and Lothar Nickel were drafted into the Afrika Korps in World War II and recall coming home to ruined cities and uncaring citizens. German veterans of World War II are beginning to describe their experiences as Germany continues to come to terms with its wartime past.

Adolf Hitler's rule. "We see, we know and we accept that Germany caused the war, but for the first time we are looking at all the aspects of what happened."

Germany officially participated this year for the first time in commemorating D-Day along side the United States, France and Britain.

Other moments for re-evaluation have included the 60th anniversaries of the July 20, 1944, failed assassination attempt against Hitler and the Aug. 1, 1944, beginning of the Warsaw Uprising, a savage 63-day battle against Nazi occupation forces that ended in a tragic defeat for Poland (see related story on Page 10).

Recognition of these events follows a wave of books, television documentaries and articles focusing for the first time on German victims of the war — both the hundreds of thousands of civilians killed in the Allied fire bombings of major cities and the 13 million expelled from their homes in Eastern Europe. Next spring will bring celebrations of V-E Day — Allied victory in Europe on May 8, 1945 — and two films about Hitler that are expected to break the longstanding German taboo against portraying the Nazi dictator on-screen.

One reason for the renewed interest, analysts and historians say, is that members of the World War II generation are dying out,

and people are keen to hear their stories firsthand before they vanish.

Another reason stems from Germany's new role as a world power, with a more activist foreign policy and a willingness to dispatch peacekeeping troops to international trouble spots.

"If we want to participate in the world, we have to stand on firm soil as to the past," said former president Richard von Weizsäcker, 84, who also served as a young soldier in the German army in World War II.

Reinhard Hesse, the main speechwriter for Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's D-Day and July 20th addresses, said the anniversaries have marked Germany's coming of age as a modern democracy. While the lessons of World War II used to be invoked as a rationale for Germans to avoid military operations, Hesse said, they are increasingly cited as a reason for Germans to become more involved.

For many Germans, the past was another country, a dark place shrouded by anguish, introspection and resentment.

Gerhard Beick and Lothar Nickel are combat veterans who were drafted at age 19 and served in the legendary Afrika Korps — in North Africa under Erwin Rommel. They recall coming home after the war from prisoner internment camps to cities in ruins and people obsessed with day-to-day survival,

expressing no interest for the returning soldiers or their experiences.

"No one cared to hear about it and no one asked," Beick recalled.

"We had all suffered, an entire generation. We came back to a destroyed country, destroyed cities, and we were interested only in personal survival.

We tried to forget the war as much as possible."

There was always an undercurrent of guilt and suspicion. Nickel recalled that when Afrika Korps members began forming veterans groups in the 1950s, newspapers would not publish notices of their meetings, fearing that the men were surreptitiously reconstituting their old units.

"In the minds of a lot of people, we were seen as old Nazis," Nickel said. "But we were just young people dragged into the war."

One of the most abiding controversies centers on the failed assassination attempt against Hitler by military officers and civilians led by Col. Claus von Schenk Stauffenberg. In the first decade

after the war, said Winfried Heinenmann, a historian with the German army's Military Research History Institute, many Germans viewed the conspirators as traitors who had violated their personal oath to Hitler. At the same time, the communist government of East Germany depicted the plotters as right-wing reactionaries who sought to kill Hitler to save their own necks when it was clear the war was lost. But in later years, the conspirators came to be honored as shining examples of German resistance in a manner that seemed to suggest their actions absolved other Germans of complicity with Hitler.

The popular view has evolved to the point where a recent poll in Der Spiegel, a weekly magazine, showed that 73 percent of those polled felt admiration or respect for the plotters and 10 percent expressed disapproval or contempt. This year's solemn anniversary ceremony, held in the cobblestone courtyard where Stauffenberg and three of his fellow conspirators were executed by firing squad on the night of the failed coup, brought together dignitaries and more than 100 relatives of the four executed men.

Schröder's speech sought to connect the German dissidents with resistance movements in Poland, France and the Netherlands, saying these disparate groups constituted the first seeds of modern European unity. But he acknowledged that in Germany, the resistance constituted a very small minority.

"We have new generations with new questions, and people are interested in what happened during the war without prejudging."

Johannes Tüchel

Director of the German Resistance Memorial Center

from his children compelled him to make the six-hour drive from his home in western Germany, along with his wife and two of his children.

He and his family found the experience both moving and disturbing.

"We have not slept well these last few days. I have many questions being discussed it," he said. "We need time to process what we have experienced."

Messages of Support

★ To our Brave Troops: Our prayer is that God bless you and continually put HIS shield of protection around you! We pray for you EVERY day! In Christ's Love, Mr. and Mrs. Jones

★ Legions of Angels Prayer: "May Legions of Angels descend from the Heavens to protect our Troops.

And, may God protect those innocent Iraqis who may get in harms way. Amen."

★ I want you to know that you have support from home. You make us proud to be Americans! Our whole band follows the war coverage daily, and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless, God speed, and God bless the United States Of America!!!

★ We here back home in America pray for you every day. You are the finest America (and England) have to offer. I wish I could trace places with one of you as my life is coming closer to an end and you are young and full of life. May God be with you and may you come home safe. With my respect, Tom Herron

★ Believe in G-D. Peace will be with us soon. You are doing a great job and are deeply appreciated. Bless and Keep you safe.

Navy captain found guilty of wearing unearned medals

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

STAFFORD, Va. — A U.S. Navy captain with 34 years of service was found guilty late Friday night of wearing service ribbons and medals for which he did not rate, including the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross, officials said.

Capt. Roger D. Edwards was found guilty during a court-martial held at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and sentenced to 115 days in the brig, forfeiture of \$2,500 pay a month for three months, and a letter of reprimand to be put in his personnel file, said base spokesman Capt. Jeffrey Landis.

The presiding judge, Navy Capt. Henry Lazzaro, did not dismiss him for service, which means Edwards will be entitled to full retirement benefits, Landis said.

Edwards began serving his jail time when the proceeding ended Friday around 10:30 p.m.

Edwards was found guilty on 11 specifications of Article 134, wearing ribbons the judge ruled that he had not earned, including the prestigious Silver Star — the third-highest honor for valor — the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Purple Hearts, a gold star on a Defense Meritorious Award, a gold star on

a Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Basic Parachutists Wings, Landis said.

"He apologized for what he did, for bringing discredit upon his service and the Marine Corps and servicemembers who served gallantly and with valor and to the folks who earned the medals," Landis said.

Edwards had served as the lead executive military adviser to the Marine Corps' top medical officer. He was defended by a civilian attorney he hired, Charlie Gittors, and a military court-appointed lawyer, Lt. Col. Louis Puleo.

Marine Corps captains Charlie Miracle and Ellen Jackson prosecuted the case.

In December 2002, then Commandant Gen. James Jones made Edwards an honorary Marine to acknowledge the medical sailor for his contributions to the Corps. The Marine Corps, part of the Department of the Navy, does not have its own medical staff and relies on the Navy for medical professionals.

Edwards had spent 18 years of his military career working for the Corps.

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GI sentenced in thefts

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A Kitzingen-based soldier who stole shirts from the post exchange, then returned them for cash, will

serve three months in prison after pleading guilty to the crime.

Spc. Anthony J. Aguilar, 22, of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, was convicted of larceny in a court-martial Thursday in

Würzburg, said Capt. Sean Condon, senior trial counsel for the 1st Infantry Division's staff judge advocate. The military judge, Col. Stephanie Browne, also ordered Aguilar reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and gave him a bad-conduct discharge.

Aguilar admitted stealing 18 shirts at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service store in Würzburg between March 10 and March 25, then returning the shirts for credit, Condon said. He did the same with a Sony PlayStation, buying a new one, then returning his old one in the new box for a refund.

Condon said Aguilar defrauded AAFES of \$1,928.25.

From staff reports.



JOHN B. BARTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Maj. Gen. Michael C. Gould, left, 3rd Air Force commander, passes the 52nd Fighter Wing guidon to the new commander, David Goldfein, at a ceremony Friday at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

New commander takes charge at Spangdahlem AB

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Leadership of Germany's only fighter base changed hands Friday when Capt. David Goldfein assumed command of the 52nd Fighter Wing from Col. Stephen Mueller.

"No words can express the gratitude I have for your devotion to duty, your sacrifice and your accomplishment of a demanding mission," Mueller told airmen assembled in a base hangar for the traditional ceremony.

Under Mueller's command, the wing deployed 3,600 airmen in support of war and peacetime missions over the last two years. It is preparing to deploy another 1,000 airmen starting next month as part of their regular Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations.

The wing, which has more than 5,500 members, operates F-16 CJ Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt IIIs, as well as TP-75 radar systems.

"What a time to be a wing commander — to prepare for and fight and win a couple of wars," said Maj. Gen. Michael C. Gould, commander of the 3rd Air Force and officiator of the ceremony.

Gould lauded Mueller's leadership and his work transforming the Cold War-era fighter base into a combined fighter-airlift hub, which will start launching cargo planes next year. Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Base will handle all the strategic airlift missions now at Rhein-Main Air Base, which will close in December 2005.

Gould also awarded Mueller the Legion of Merit in recognition

of his distinguished service while at Spangdahlem.

With the passage of the wing guidon from Mueller to Goldfein, the new commander's position was official. In a nod to the new leadership, Mueller's name was removed from the side of the wing F-16 flagship and Goldfein's name was revealed. Mueller, who has been selected for the rank of brigadier general, will become chief of staff of the Joint Warfare Center Allied Command Transformation, NATO, Stavanger, Norway.

"Today, you're getting a commander of equal caliber," Gould said of Goldfein. Goldfein was commander of the 366th Operations Group at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, before coming to Spangdahlem.

Before Goldfein began his short speech, he told the airmen who had been standing at attention in formation for 40 minutes in the sweltering hangar to relax for a minute and shake out their legs. There was a collective murmur of relief.

Some airmen later said they had never before witnessed such an acknowledgment at a formal ceremony.

Goldfein told the airmen that on Sept. 11, 2001, he had just left his office at the Pentagon when the terrorists slammed the airliner into the building. He spent the days and weeks following the attack helping his colleagues recover.

"My focus is simple," Goldfein said of his leadership plans at Spangdahlem. "To prepare to fight, to fight to win and to take care of each other."

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Messages of Support

★ Hello Danny, Just wanted you to now that I am thinking of you and missing you. Can't wait until you come home. Missing you like crazy and every one is awaiting your arrival. Stay safe and remember that I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU!!!! Your Sunshine)

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KRISTINE SNEYLEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard prepare to enter and clear a building Thursday at the Novo Selo Training Area in Bulgaria. Pictured, from left, are Sgt. Timothy Webster, Sgt. Kedric Lambert and Spc. John Farrar. The soldiers hail from Matteson, Ill., and are training in Bulgaria for three weeks during Bulwark 04, an exercise headed by the U.S. Army Europe's 18th Engineer Brigade.

Army to form stronger relations with Bulgaria in joint exercises

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria—To forge stronger ties in its budding relation-

ship with Bulgaria, U.S. Army Europe is conducting the largest joint exercise with the former East bloc country since Bulgaria joined NATO in May.

Bulwark 04, which began Mon-

day and ends Aug. 22, involves 1,200 U.S. and Bulgarian soldiers, Department of Defense civilians and local national contractors, said Capt. Mike Zweifel, exercise personnel chief.

About 270 active-duty and 500 National Guardsmen and reservists from Alabama and Illinois are also participating in the training held at the Novo Selo Training Area.

The Germany-based 18th Engineer Brigade, the 7th Army Training Command and the 21st Theater Support Command are supporting the exercise.

Most of the camp's tents, construction supplies and other equipment was at Camp McGrath, Kosovo, and Camp Able Sentry in Macedonia, both of which have been closed.

"As our forces have gotten smaller, we've consolidated a little bit," said Col. Michael Flanagan, deputy commander of the 18th Engineer Brigade. "So the cost of building this life support area was greatly reduced because it's already-owned government property."

Troops participating in Bulwark are simulating live-fire combat scenarios, including NATO small-unit tactics, and using the latest combat technology, such as the Deployable Instrumentation Systems in Europe, or DICE.

The system tracks soldiers' ac-

tions in mock battles using a global positioning system transmitter and receiver worn on a soldier's vest.

"They've got this really wonderful range out here that allows you to do a lot of live-fire maneuver training and a MOUT facility that is pretty extensive," Flanagan added, referring to the Military Operations Urban Terrain course that simulates urban warfare.

"It is a great opportunity for the 18th to establish our skills which is going into a new location, establishing a command control headquarters, developing a life support area and then receiving soldiers to conduct the mission," Flanagan said.

"Both the government and the Bulgarian people appreciate this new partnership between Bulgaria and NATO," said Maj. Svetlana Georgieva, Bulgarian Land Forces civil affairs officer.

The Bulgarian military is supporting coalition forces in the Middle East with a battalion of 400 Bulgarian infantry soldiers stationed in Karbala, Iraq, under the command of Polish military.

"[The Bulgarian Land Forces] are hoping to learn a lot of new things," Georgieva said. "We are happy that there are no more secrets between us."

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Rota ready for National Night Out

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain— Servicemembers and their families overseas will join millions in the United States this week in a worldwide block party against crime and drugs.

It will be part of the 21st annual National Night Out, a worldwide crime and drug prevention awareness event. Thousands of communities will participate on Tuesday.

The security department in Rota is teaming up with the naval station's fire department, Morale Welfare and Recreation and other commands to "give crime and drugs a going away party."

A parade, beginning at the housing area's fire department at 5 p.m., will kick off the event. It will snake through the housing area and will end at Sea View Pines park, where there will be booths serving food, games for the kids and demonstrations by the security department and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit Eight, Detachment Rota.

National Night Out is held the same day throughout the world, encouraging people to get out, meet and greet their neighbors, area police and firefighters.

The National Association of Town Watch, a nonprofit organization that promotes crime and drug prevention programs, sponsors the event. More than 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada and military bases worldwide will participate. Last year, 34 million people took part.

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Messages of Support

★ Luis, our daughter said "Mama! I know she would say mama first. She can stand! I know it is hard that we are both deployed, but hopefully this will be all over and we will be back soon. Love you, CIN.

★ Dear Jovar A., we all love you and we miss you very much, call as soon as you can. Love always and Forever Melissa, JR., Domestri, and your wife's little princess Preshus



LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

Bulwark 04 Commander Col. John E. Sterling Jr., right, greets Bulgarian Land Forces Maj. Gen. Kircho Kurtev, left, at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, during Bulgarian Community Leaders Day. Local mayors and other area leaders came to the site Saturday to learn about the workings of the exercise.

21st TSC mourns 2 killed in Iraq road attack

By TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Tall and striking — a black suit accenting pale skin and a grown-out, blond high-and-tight — Jason Bulla sat in the left center aisle of Daenner Chapel as the crowd of more than 400 mourners silently filed out.

He remained sitting after nearly everyone else had gone, dabbing his eyes from time to time as he talked quietly with a soldier. Finally, he walked to the front of the chapel where photos of Sgt. Tatjana Reed, 34, and Spc. Torey J. Dantzier, 22, were displayed along with their photos, their weapons barrel-down in their boots — the Army way of signifying fallen soldiers.

After gazing at the photos of Reed and Dantzier, both from the 21st Theater Support Command's 66th Transportation Company, 28th Transportation Battalion, he walked out of the chapel. Oblivious to everyone and everything, he sobbed as he crossed the parking lot.

Ask why he mourned, Reed's and Dantzier's former 66th comrade stopped and answered in a whisper: "They were perfect."

Talk to the people who knew them, and the pain of Reed's and Dantzier's deaths in Iraq, killed



Spc. Torey J. Dantzier

when a July 22 roadside bomb attack in Samarra destroyed their Humvee, is compounded by regret over vital lives cut short.

"We all wish [Dantzier] had been able to see his family one more time before it was his time to go," said Pfc. Melissa Cramblett, 21, during her soldier's tribute.

"He never met his son," said Cramblett, who with Sgt. Avia Olivardia, 24, delivered the tribute. Dantzier, a gunner and driver, was just days away from going home on rest and recuperation to see his Torey Jr. when he died.



Sgt. Tatjana Reed

"He couldn't wait to get home and see his son ... He was a 'junior,' and [Dantzier] was so excited," Cramblett said in an interview after the memorial service Friday.

All Dantzier talked about was his family, Cramblett and Olivardia agreed.

"His wife, his daughter [Kayla] and his new son," Cramblett said. "He wore his daughter's photo on his sleeve!" she said, gesturing to the left sleeve of her battle dress uniform. "Really, on his sleeve."

Reed, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator, also leaves behind a

child — her daughter, Genevieve, 12.

Once, Bulla said, Reed came to him and asked him for some wire for her daughter.

"She told me about her daughter ... She was creating a fork that the troops could use downrange to see what they were eating at night," he said. "I told her, 'Inventors are not created at 20. They're seedlings that grow up to be someone beautiful. I told her one day, she's going to be a great inventor and my child will read about her.'"

In her remarks, Cramblett described how thrilled Reed was to discover a framed photo of her daughter that Genevieve had tucked into her bags before her mom deployed.

There was only one appropriate description of Reed, Staff Sgt. Agustín Sarmiento, 34, a 66th squad leader, said.

"She was an exceptional woman," Sarmiento said. "An exceptional woman. There were no other words to describe her. She was a real tender, loving, caring person. She cared for soldiers."

She was also multitalented and multilingual, having been born in Germany, where she went to high school.

During the memorial, commanders and fellow soldiers talked about a mother figure who

helped other soldiers translate when they had problems with landlords, a solid noncommissioned officer who stressed loyalty and caring for each other. And they also described a woman who could brew a strong cup of coffee that one soldier said was "better than Dunkin' Donuts coffee."

"When I first came to the 66th, Sergeant Reed was the first person I met," Cramblett said in her remarks. "She took me under her wing. She was a good person, a good NCO and she cared a lot for us."

While most talked about Reed's compassion and capabilities, Dantzier was described as the soldier who was always up, and who loved sitting behind his 50-cal in his truck, "a morale booster" for everyone else, no matter what was going on, Cramblett said.

More than anything, though, Cramblett said, she'll remember what she called Dantzier's and Reed's willingness to sacrifice for freedom.

"Words will never be enough," Olivardia said. "Even though we have an infinity of words, it'll never be enough."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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IN THE WORLD



A World War II Polish veteran salutes with his sword during a Mass at the opening of the Warsaw Uprising Museum in Warsaw, Poland, on Saturday. The opening was a part of observances marking the 60th anniversary of the anti-Nazi uprising that broke out on Aug. 1, 1944.

Emotions run deep at 60th anniversary of Warsaw uprising

BY VANESSA GERA
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Sixty years after Poles fought a doomed battle against Nazi occupiers in Warsaw, the first museum devoted to the uprising opened Saturday with tearful recollections by a former fighter and tributes from dignitaries including Pope John Paul II.

Some 3,000 aging veterans attended the ceremony as part of an emotional three-day remembrance of the 63-day revolt, which left an estimated 200,000 fighters and civilians dead and most of Warsaw destroyed by the Germans.

"This is about truth and remembrance for all Poles and to show Europe and the rest of the world our true history and what happened in Warsaw," Prime Minister Marek Belka told a large crowd in the museum garden, standing in front of a granite wall inscribed with the names of thousands of fallen combatants.

Compounding the tragedy for Poles, the uprising was written out of official history during 40 years of communist rule, when leaders aimed to suppress the fact that the Red Army watched from the other side of the Vistula River as SS-led Nazi troops put down the uprising.

A frail Zofia Kaboronska, who fought with her husband in the uprising and came from Britain, underscored the sense that history is being righted.

"Now what we did will never be forgotten, after all these terrible years of German and Russian oppression," she told the audience, pausing several times to fight back tears.

Later, Polish soldiers bearing flags of Home Army units led veterans of the uprising in a procession at the presidential palace, where several dozen former fighters received medals.

Several stood and saluted the Polish flag with their right hands while holding canes in the other as a large video screen showed sepia-toned images of the burning city in 1944.

"The uprising will not be thought of as a tragedy, but a great source of pride for all Poles," President Aleksander Kwasniewski told the audience.

Ceremonies culminate Sunday in a day of solemn wreath-laying and speeches by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Britain's Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Polish leaders — 60 years after the insurgency began on Aug. 1, 1944.

Group claims it sought to kill Pakistani official

BY JASPER MORTIMER
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A militant group posted an Internet statement in the name of al-Qaida on Saturday, claiming responsibility for the attempt to assassinate Pakistan's prime minister-designate.

"One of our blessed battalions tried to hunt a head of one of America's infidels in Pakistan while he was returning from Fateh Jang, but God wanted him to survive," the statement said, referring to the town near the Pakistani capital where Friday's suicide attack on Shaikat Aziz took place.

Written in Arabic, the message was posted on an Islamic Web site known for carrying messages from militant groups.

It was not possible to verify the authenticity of the claim. The group called itself the "Islambouli Brigades of al-Qaida." Lt.

Khaled Islambouli was the leader of the group of soldiers who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a military parade in Cairo in 1981.

The statement said the attempted assassination retaliated for Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's policy of transferring wanted militants to U.S. custody.

Addressing itself to Musharraf and the Pakistani government, the statement said, "This operation yesterday will be followed by a series of painful strikes if you don't stop what you are doing by complying to the wicked Bush's orders."

The group said it was giving the government a "period of truce" to cease handing over detainees to America, failing which the militants "will behave in a different way."

The statement did not say how long the truce would last, but it warned that this message was "the last warning."

"Within the coming few days, our brigades will speak with the language of blood which is the only language you understand," the message added.

It accused Shaikat Aziz, currently the finance minister, of being "a follower of the wicked Bush and his cronies."

Pakistani police have said al-Qaida might have been behind Friday's attack. Musharraf says he believes al-Qaida was involved in two attempts to kill him in December.

Friday's attack came hours after Pakistan announced the capture of a senior al-Qaida terrorist, and a day after Pakistan said it was considering sending troops to Iraq.

Islamic militants are enraged at Musharraf's support for the U.S.-led war on terror. Al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri called for his assassination earlier this year.

Uzbekistan links embassy attacks to trial of spring bombing suspects

BY BURT HERMAN
The Associated Press

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — An extremist group blamed in attacks that killed 47 people earlier this year orchestrated suicide bombings Friday against the U.S. and Israeli embassies and the Uzbek chief prosecutor's office, an anti-terrorism official said Saturday.

The latest attacks, which killed three people, were retaliation for the continuing trial of 15 suspects, allegedly linked to al-Qaida, in the attacks four months ago, Tashkent police anti-terrorism chief Oleg Bichenov told The Associated Press.

"It is connected to the trial and has been carried out by remnants of the same group," Bichenov said. "These are links in one chain."

The first trial for those attacks — which hit in late

March and early April — began Monday in Uzbekistan's Supreme Court.

The defendants have all pleaded guilty and said the U.S. and Israeli embassies were among planned targets for their extremist group, known as Jamaat, which means "society" in Uzbek, planned to attack.

They have said the group ran training camps in Pakistan where they were taught by Arabs who the government says were al-Qaida instructors.

Uzbekistan, which borders Afghanistan, is a key U.S. ally in the war on terror despite the government's poor human rights record, and U.S. troops are based here.

The death toll from Friday's attack rose to three after a police officer who was guarding the U.S. Embassy died overnight from his wounds. There were eight wounded. The toll did not include the three suicide bombers.

Italian manhunt ends in shootout

ROME — In a shootout Saturday near the Circus Maximus in central Rome, police captured a suspected killer, shooting him in the head after he briefly held a family of French tourists as a shield, police said.

The Italian news agency Apcom quoted Rome prosecutor Italo Ormanni as saying the suspect died

during surgery at San Giovanni Hospital, where he was taken in an ambulance. Officials could not immediately be reached to confirm the report.

Luciano Liboni, object of a 10-day manhunt after he allegedly killed a policeman July 22, had terrorized the capital exactly a week ago when he shot at police and forced a motorist with his children to drive him in their car to escape.

From The Associated Press

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Flames erupt from a building in Ghislenghien, Belgium, on Friday after an explosion at a gas works. The fire killed at least 15 people and injured 120, including firefighters and police responding to the blast, authorities said.

Belgium mourns 15 deaths in explosion

BY LAURENCE FROST

The Associated Press

ATH, Belgium — Belgian government officials across the country flew their flags at half-staff Saturday, and King Albert II led mourning for the dead after a spectacular gas line explosion killed at least 15 people and injured 120.

Residents of Ath piled up flowers outside the town's volunteer fire station, which lost five firefighters in the blast, while medical experts worked on identifying the dead at a morgue set up in a local school.

"It was the apocalypse. We couldn't see anything or anyone, and then we began to find the bodies scattered around the area, completely carbonized," said firefighter Patrick Chevalier, who arrived at the scene shortly after the explosion. "One colleague we recognized straight away by his shoulder badge, but it wasn't possible to identify others."

Three people remained missing, including one police officer, after the Friday morning blast in an industrial area just outside the village of Ghislenghien, six miles northeast of Ath.

Some 50 people remained in serious condition, including four burn victims on life support in a coma at a military hospital outside Brussels, officials said. Another two were fighting for their lives at an Antwerp hospital. Many of the injured suffered severe burns and were being treated at special burn units in Belgium and in the nearby city of Lille, France and in Paris.

The blast occurred after firefighters came to the scene to investigate a report from construction workers who said they had damaged the underground gas link.

The thunderous blast was

heard miles away and sent a towering wall of orange flame soaring into the sky in a series of mushrooming balls of fire. The blast incinerated a swath of large buildings in the industrial park, hurling bodies more than 100 yards into nearby wheat fields and leaving everything within a 400-yard radius melted or badly burned.

The mood was subdued in Ath and flags were flying at half-staff on the gray town hall as the king arrived at the town's main square. Before he arrived, a wedding went ahead as planned at the town hall, but guests were told not to throw confetti in respect for the dead.

After greeting a silent crowd, Albert went into the town hall to attend a meeting of rescue workers.

He also spent half an hour consulting families of victims behind closed doors.

Albert, along with the defense and interior minister, also spent half an hour at the blast site, at Ghislenghien, 20 miles southeast of Brussels.

He talked with firefighters and rescue workers at the devastated industrial park, where investigators continued collecting evidence to find out the exact cause of the explosion.

The king was expected to visit the fire station and injured victims at a hospital in Ath later Saturday.

Gas distributor Fluxus said the pipeline runs from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge to France. The blast occurred about a half-hour after the leak was first reported.

Firefighter unions urged the government Saturday to come up with stricter rules to monitor gas lines as well as standard rules on how to handle leaks, especially if they happen at construction sites.

Associated Press correspondent Constant Brand contributed to this report from Brussels.

U.N. council pushes Sudan to rein in violent militants

BY BARBARA BROSS

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Sudan denounced a U.N. Security Council resolution that gave the government 30 days to stem ethnic violence in the western Darfur region or face sanctions, saying Khartoum needed international help, not threats.

Sudan said the resolution, passed 13-0 on Friday, violates a previous agreement with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in which it promised to crack down on the militias who have killed thousands of people and forced more than 1 million to flee in Darfur.

"Sudan expresses its deep sorrow that the issue of Darfur has quickly entered the Security Council and has been hijacked from its regional arena," Information Minister El-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik said in a statement.

But the violence has continued despite a cease-fire called in July and Sudanese promises of a crackdown. The three African countries on the council — Algeria, Angola and Benin — backed the U.S.-sponsored resolution.

"We believe that the international community cannot be passive and indifferent to the ongoing humanitarian crisis ... or to the horrendous crimes committed against the civilian populations," Algeria's U.N. ambassa-

dor Abdallah Baali told the council on behalf of the three countries.

The 17-month-old conflict over dwindling resources has led to some 30,000 deaths in a western region the size of Iraq that has a population of about 6 million. The United States didn't specify what sanctions might be considered but said the council issued a tough warning to Sudan to rein in the militias, known as Janjaweed.

Asked about the Sudanese rejection of the resolution, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Kuwait that the Security Council had delivered a strong message. "They [the Sudanese] can say whatever they wish to say," Powell said. "The Security Council has spoken, in a rather strong voice. The issue now is to move forward and help the suffering people of Darfur. I hope Sudan will use the time provided in the resolution to do everything it can to bring the Janjaweed under control."



Danforth

The resolution demands that Sudan disarm the Arab militias and requires states to prevent the sale or supply of weapons and ammunition to individuals and groups, including the Janjaweed, operating in the Darfur region.

The document was adopted after extensive debate over the use of the word "sanctions," which the United States removed from its final version after several countries objected to the explicit threat. The United States and other supporters, however, insisted the threat of sanctions remained.

"The resolution in stern and unambiguous terms puts the Sudanese government on notice," U.S. Ambassador John Danforth said. "Sudan must know that serious measures — international sanctions — are looming if the government refuses to do so."

Though it was angered by the resolution, Sudan promised to abide by its July 3 agreement with Annan. Sudan defended its efforts and said what it really needed from the international community was more humanitarian assistance.

"We will do the right thing in spite of the way we have been treated," Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Elifath Mohamed Erwa said.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



Dear Stan, We have heard from Jean on a regular basis, she sounds good. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Glad to hear you're safe and I'm sure that you are anxious to support your fellow soldiers. God be with you a package is on the way. Love Mansfields



This message is for A02 (AW) Yusuf G. who is a sailor aboard the USS Carl Vinson. I just wanted to send all my love and support for him as well as the other sailors and soldiers out there fighting for our countries. Yusuf, I'm very proud of you and I love you with all my heart. Your woman, Savena



Just want all you boys and girls to know how proud we are of you that you have taken this time in your life to fight for freedom and peace in the world. We know that conditions are not pleasant and you are missing home. If there is any way we can help get things over faster where we will do all we can. We are urging the president and congress to give you all you need to get the job done and we will figure out the budget later.

May God be with you all and you are certainly in my prayers. Show the world once again that the Americans are the best in the world. Much love from us here in the states, Rosalie and Bruce Cedar Bluff, Alabama



Cpl Cook, USMC: You are my "Super Cowboy!" Remember what my mom always says, "know who you are and put your best foot forward." Don't forget about the kicking butt and taking names thing too—that's what Marines do best. I love you!



D. B. Simmons, I love you very much honey! Please stay safe and come home to us soon. We miss you like crazy! I can't wait to fall asleep in your loving arms again. Hurry home. Our thoughts and prayers are with you every day until the day that we can be together again. Petra, Tyler, Joshua, Brandon and baby Hannah



I just wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the men and women of our military. May God bless you and keep you safe.

IN THE STATES

Candidates take platforms for a spin

Bush defends work on jobs, economy

BY PETE YOST
The Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — President Bush, defending his record on the economy, told supporters Saturday in an Ohio town where job losses are a major issue that he has a four-year plan for peace and prosperity.

"After four more years, the American economy will continue to be the strongest in the world," Bush said as his Democratic rival, John Kerry, campaigned in neighboring Pennsylvania.

Bush said factors beyond his control, such as the Sept. 11 attacks and corporate scandals, were to blame for the country's economic problems over the past four years. He also said the economy was weakening when he took office in January 2001.

Bush said he favored fair and reasonable government regulation, less reliance on foreign energy, fewer frivolous lawsuits that hurt businesses, and low taxes.

"That's how you keep jobs at home," the president said.

On the way to Canton, Bush stopped in Akron to pick up about 10 workers at the Timken Co. bearings plants cited by Kerry. Some 1,300 Timken employees are scheduled to lose their jobs.

In May, Kerry urged Bush to intervene, and a month later the Massachusetts senator visited the plants.

Canton is in Stark County, an area that Ohio political analysts say is a bellwether for the rest of the state in presidential elections. Bush won Ohio in 2000 against Democrat Al Gore, and narrowly took Stark County with less than 50 percent of the vote.

No Republican has won the White House without carrying Ohio.

Unemployment in Stark County was 6.4 percent in June, compared with 5.9 percent in May but down from 7.3 percent in June 2003.

Protesters mixed with Bush supporters along the bus route. One boy held up a sign that said, "Bush's last tour."

Earlier Saturday, the Bush caravan stopped in Berea for a visit to the NFL's Cleveland Browns at their training camp. He was shown around by coach Butch Davis and quarterback Jeff Garcia.

Speaking about offensive tackle Ryan Tucker, Bush cracked: "He went to the same high school as my wife, but he's not as good-looking."



President Bush greets supporters at a campaign rally Saturday in Canton, Ohio.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., reaches for supporters from his bus window Friday in Scranton, Pa.

Kerry reaches for hunters, undecided

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Democrats John Kerry and John Edwards rolled their post-nomination campaign into the heart of Pennsylvania, pitching their presidential ticket to independent voters in this battleground state.

On the first day of a two-week bus tour that will take the running mates through 21 states from coast to coast, Kerry visited thousands of supporters gathered Friday in front of the capitol of a state courted and coveted by Republicans and Democrats.

Kerry tailored an environmental message to sportsmen.

"This is one of the great preserves that cares about hunting and fishing and I say to you — as a hunter, as a fisherman — we need to preserve the habitat," the Massachusetts senator said.

His pitch to independent and undecided voters included a strong emphasis on defense and security in an age of terrorism.

In remarks prepared for a rally in Greensburg, Pa., Kerry struck a familiar theme from his convention speech earlier in the week: America can do better.

"We are less than 100 days away from the election," Kerry

said. "We all know elections are about choices and choices are about values. In the end, it's not just policies and programs that matter. The president behind the desk must be guided by principle."

Retired Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, who was Air Force chief of staff during the first Gulf War, said Saturday in the Democrats' weekly radio address that he withdrew his support from President Bush to support Kerry on the strength of Kerry's wartime service and experience in Vietnam.

"The real deal for me is not whether a strategy or a plan or an idea is Republican or Democrat, but whether it makes us safer," he said. "And it means an awful lot to me that John Kerry fought for his country as a young man."

Kerry told The Associated Press in his first interview as the Democrats' presidential candidate that he would put the Sept. 11 attacks' suspected mastermind on trial in U.S. courts as the "fastest, surest route" to a murder conviction.

Osama bin Laden should be tried in New York City, Virginia and Pennsylvania, Kerry said.

Kerry concluded his Harrisburg remarks by urging supporters to ask their conservative friends to consider him.

Boston police reporting only handful of arrests this week

BY MATT APUZZO
The Associated Press

BOSTON — After months of preparing for the worst, with officials expecting thousands of protesters and planning for as many as 2,500 arrests, the Democratic National Convention culminated Thursday with relative calm and just a handful of arrests.

On the day the demonstrators didn't get the numbers they expected, Boston Police Superintendent Robert Dumford said. "I think that worked in our favor, but the biggest thing that worked in our favor was that the officers were able to keep a good sense of humor."

The most tense incident of the week was a showing match that lasted no more than half an hour Thursday. Demonstrators were burning an American flag and a double-faced effigy depicting both presidential candidates near the FleetCenter. When a melee erupted, a throng of roughly 400 protesters pressed up against police officers who struck back at them with batons.

Several protesters were dragged from the crowd and handcuffed by police, but the scene quickly calmed down and protesters returned to Boston Common. Three people were arrested in the skirmish.

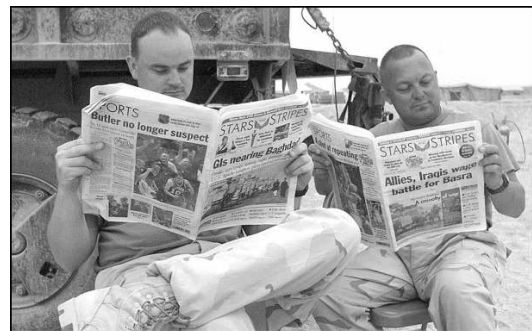
Two other arrests were made Thursday. One man was charged with larceny and unarmed assault after he allegedly tore convention credentials off the neck of another man. Another man was arrested Thursday night for trespassing at the FleetCenter. The only other convention-related arrest was of an intoxicated man ranting about President Bush on Wednesday.

Overall the week went smoothly, partly because there were fewer protesters than expected and the ones who were there were well-behaved, both police and protesters said. When police stepped in, they were able to defuse tense confrontations.

During the melee Thursday, Elly Guillelte, of the Black Tea Society, a loosely organized protest group, said six protesters were injured by police, but none seriously.

"It definitely could have been worse, but also they didn't have to do what they did," Guillelte said. But other protesters, like David Vincent, 29, of Boston, said police had treated them well.

"Do I like being in a pen?" he asked, referring to the razor-wired topped demonstration zone that was the subject of a lawsuit. "No. But so far [the police] have been really nice."



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White House projects \$445B budget deficit

Record shortfall is 3rd in Bush administration

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This year's federal deficit will soar to a record \$445 billion, the White House projected Friday in a report provoking immediate election-season tussling over how well President Bush has handled the economy.

The administration's annual summertime budget update forecast shortfalls falling to \$331 billion next year, then fading to \$229 billion by 2009. For each year, the red ink was smaller than the White House envisioned six months ago.

The analysis was released the same day the Commerce Department said economic growth slowed this spring to an annual rate of 3 percent, well below the 3.8 percent spurt that many economists expected. The slowdown was caused by a spending cutback by consumers in the face of high gasoline costs, the department said.

Administration officials hailed the budget figures as a solid improvement over the deficits analysts forecast early this year, and said they were on their way to their goal of halving this year's shortfall in five years. The White House estimated a \$521 billion budget gap for 2004 in February, while the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predicted a \$477 billion deficit.

"This improved budget outlook is the direct result of the strong economic growth the president's tax relief has fueled," said White House budget director Joshua Bolton.

He conceded that the red ink remained at "unwelcome" levels, but said the report was still "good news" because of the reduction from earlier estimates.

Democrats contrasted the \$445 billion projection

with the \$262 billion surplus for this year that Bush projected in 2001, when he was persuading Congress to approve the first of his tax cuts.

The shortfall will be the third consecutive — and ever-growing — deficit under Bush, following four consecutive annual surpluses under President Clinton. Democrats said the turnout underscored the damage done by Bush's tax cuts and his poor stewardship of the economy, and criticized the White House praise for the report.

"What we've got now is a president of the United States who is actively misleading the American people on the financial condition of the country," said Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee. "Shame on him."

The White House attributed this year's improvement to the collection of \$82 billion more in revenue than anticipated, reflecting stronger economic activity. That was partly offset by \$6 billion more in spending than expected, largely for Medicaid and Medicare.

The projection, if accurate, would mean the government will have to borrow 19 percent of the \$2.32 trillion it expects to spend this year.

Last year's \$375 billion deficit was the largest ever. When adjusted for the loss of purchasing power caused by inflation, only the shortfalls during World War II have exceeded the projected \$445 billion shortfall.

The Concord Coalition and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, bipartisan groups that advocate balanced budgets, said the report showed deficits must be controlled.

"We cannot continue to allow this burden to multiply for our children and our children's children," said Maya MacGuineas, the committee's executive director.



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Relocation Guide
Saturdays

STARS AND STRIPES
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Bonnie Ludwick takes bags of personal items to a moving truck early Friday, in Chelan, Wash. She was told to evacuate the area due to the Deep Harbor fire, which grew to more than 10,000 acres.

Winds fan wildfires in Cascade foothills

BY SHANNON DININNY
The Associated Press

ELLENBURG, Wash. — High winds that fanned a wildfire across up to 300 acres in the eastern Cascade foothills began to die down, but firefighters said they didn't expect the blaze to be out for some time.

Pushed by 25 mph gusts Friday, the fire burned four buildings and forced the evacuation of about 200 residences. No injuries were reported.

"The fire's still rolling," Kittitas County Undersheriff Clayton Myers told 90 to 100 evacuees at a high school.

The fire started about noon Friday near Interstate 90 between Cle Elum and Ellensburg. Myers said its cause was unknown but considered suspicious, the fourth suspicious Kittitas County fire in the past week.

Cleo Aho, 68, of Cle Elum, said firefighters came to her door and gave her five minutes to get her cat and dog and leave her home.

"It's not long enough," she said. "Five minutes goes so fast. ... You don't think it's ever going to happen to you."

Helicopters dropped water and planes spread fire retardant around the edges of the two houses.

developments. Myers said every piece of fire equipment available was at the scene to try to protect homes, some of which are cabins.

Authorities hoped to direct the fire from nearby timber and toward open prairie.

Friday morning, authorities in central Washington ordered the evacuation of 100 houses after a wildfire near Lake Chelan grew to 9,800 acres in 24 hours. The fire was burning about 2½ miles from the nearest home.

In Oregon, high winds Friday fanned a wildfire burning near the Warm Springs Indian Reservation to 11,000 acres. The blaze was 40 percent contained, and no homes were threatened, officials said.

In Nevada, a wildfire started by a truck crash in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest was 70 percent contained Friday.

The fire blackened 290 acres on steep mountain slopes about 35 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

No structures burned, but five firefighters suffered minor injuries and 15 homes were evacuated, along with a Girl Scout camp and a youth correctional facility. Many residents in the 350-home Kyle Canyon community left voluntarily.

Senate investigates Statue of Liberty foundation

NEW YORK — The charity that runs the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island is being asked by Congress to explain some of its expenses, including high salaries for its executives and \$45,000 a year for a dog that chases away geese.

The Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation was sent a letter Friday from the Senate Finance Committee, which has been probing the nonprofit's spending since earlier this year. The letter asked the foundation to answer questions about its finances and management. The New York Times reported Saturday.

"The Statue of Liberty Foundation board was too often AWOL or uninformed in managing the foundation and ensuring that charitable donations were being used appropriately," committee Chairman Charles Grassley said in a statement, according to the newspaper.

Grassley, R-Iowa, said he was concerned "the foundation's board may not have been in compliance with tax laws, or even its own by-laws, when it approved high salaries for foundation executives."

The charity's president was paid more than \$300,000 last year.

From The Associated Press



George Reiger Jr., has 1,643 tattoos of Disney characters on his body and another 47 of Disney theme-park rides. He has been getting Disney tattoos for 32 years.

Man has Disney under — and all over — his skin

BY MICHELE HIMMELBERG
Orange County Register

SANTA ANA, Calif. — George Reiger Jr. claims to be Disney's No. 1 fan.

If you want to challenge him, you'll have to beat this: 1,643 tattoos of Disney characters from the base of his neck to the tops of his toes; a 4,200-square-foot house in Bethlehem, Pa., with 19,000 Disney collector pieces, and six honeymoons at Walt Disney World in Florida.

And when he finally leaves it all behind, his will calls for his ashes to be spread in the Pirates of the Caribbean ride. Nothing is more important than Disney, says Reiger, who was in Anaheim, Calif., last week for the National Fantasy Fan Club convention, a gathering of Disney collectors.

Many have devoted their vacations and paychecks to Disney memorabilia; Reiger has devoted most of his skin — and his life — to the Magic Kingdom.

"My love for Disney comes first; that's why I've been through so many wives," he said last week at the Crown Plaza Anaheim Resort, headquarters for the NFFC meeting.

Reiger strolled the convention

rooms in shorts and a tank top, showing off his tattoos. A decade ago, there were 300 and his goal was 500. Now, he keeps squeezing them in, adding 47 Disney rides, 111 cast members and 13 hidden Mickey to the characters.

Monstro, the whale from Pinocchio, yawns across his belly. Beauty and the Beast dance on his left shoulder. On his back you can count 101 Dalmations, plus two. Yeah, he and his tattoo artist got carried away.

On his forearm is Reiger's first and favorite, the one he got at 18 — Mickey Mouse as the apprentice in the film "Fantasia."

There are 28 more in places "only lives can see."

Reiger admits that it's odd for a 50-year-old man to be obsessed with characters created for children. But he says the magic created by Walt Disney filled the voids of his childhood. He grew up with his grandmother and Disney television shows. He visited his first theme park, Disneyland, at age 8.

"Disney raised me," he said.

"It's my family." He has visited theme parks on three continents, including Walt Disney World 379 times, and figures he pours \$500,000 a year into the company cash registers.

Possible witness in baby food case not talking

IRVINE, Calif. — A man identified as a possible witness in a case of baby food tampering refused to answer questions, authorities said Friday. The man's lawyer said he has no information to help police.

"They kind of ruined this man's life with all this publicity that they showered on him," said Mark H. Williams, the lawyer for Charles Dewey Cagle.

Orange County Deputy District Attorney Susan Schroeder said prosecutors, police and the FBI on Thursday tried to interview Cagle about the placement of ground-caster beans containing trace amounts of the poison ricin in two jars of baby food.

"We believe he was in the store at the relevant time and has information that can help solve the case," Schroeder said.

Cagle, 47, told the Orange County Register newspaper he knows nothing about the incident.

"The FBI [mess] up. The Irvine police are shoddy," he said.

From The Associated Press

Both parties find something to like in 'girlie men' shirts

BY LISA VORDERBRUGGEN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — A golden marketing opportunity knows no political boundaries.

A San Francisco-based entrepreneur in the Democrats' camp and eager GOP college students are hawked T-shirts featuring Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's now famous "girlie men" insult.

A handful of state senators bought them. An entire Sacramento, Calif., bowling league ordered shirts. Folks from all over the country, and even some in Paris and Ireland, have opened their wallets.

"It's been crazy," said fashion designer Sarah Lefton, who owns Jewish Fashion Conspiracy. "I have shirts stacked everywhere, and we're shipping as fast as we can."

College Republicans chairman Michael Davidson of Los Angeles says hundreds of people from 15 states have ordered the GOP shirt.

"A lot of young people really appreciate straight talk, even if it's a bit politically incorrect," said Davidson, a UC-Berkeley graduate.

The College Republicans debuted a T-shirt and buttons on-line at www.collegerepublics.org. Student chapters will sell the items on campus starting in mid-August. Later, the club will offer sweat shirts, banners and bottle openers.

"A lot of young people really appreciate straight talk, even if it's a bit politically incorrect."

Michael Davidson
College Republicans
chairman

For \$15, a GOP fan may buy a T-shirt with a drawing of a donkey in a dress and wording that says, "Don't be a girlie man: Join The College Republicans" or "Don't be a girlie man: Vote Republican."

Buttons sell for \$1.50. The proceeds go into the organization's recruiting fund.

In the Democrats' corner, political faddists can visit www.saturdaynightliken.com where a young man models a shirt labeled, "Sacramento Girlie Men."

Buy it for \$24 and Lefton will donate a fifth of the proceeds to the Democratic Party, which "as you may have noticed, could use the help," her company site reads.

Lefton says the lightbulb flashed after she heard Schwarzenegger tag as "girlie

men" those Democratic lawmakers who refused to pass his budget.

The term originated with a Schwarzenegger-inspired, 1980s "Saturday Night Live" parody about fitness gurus Hans and Franz.

The governor's zipper generated everything from delighted choruses to outright disgust. Critics assailed the remark as insensitive to women, gays and lesbians.

Lefton said the governor's remark didn't offend her because she is a woman.

"I was offended as a human being," Lefton said. "I really brought back to me the things that aggravate me about California politics, that feeling that we can't have an intelligent conversation but that we have to resort to insulting people who don't agree with us."

Lighten up, responds Davidson.

So what if he was in elementary school when the "girlie man" "Saturday Night Live" skit originally aired? Thanks to reruns and DVDs, the quirky show transcends generations and exemplifies the merger of politics and popular culture. "This is a humorous way for us to get out our message," Davidson said.

No word on whether Schwarzenegger is laughing.

He has been a little busy with the state budget this week and his press office didn't have a comment.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ J. Reffor, We are all very proud of you and you are in our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers. Hurry up and get finished over there so you can come home to a huge Welcome Home party! Your Mom will probably even let you bring that goofy looking Rocky to stay at her house! We love you, Your Family

★ Just wanted to pass on a big thank you. You're all in our prayers here in Bradenton, FL and God Bless you all and God Bless America. Brad. Bradenton, FL

★ A. BROWN: I love you and we miss you so much. Watch your back, come home to me. PS: If I don't get to see you by then Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary! All My Love, Brandy

★ To all our boys in services. We just wanted to say hello and to let you all know that we miss you guys and that we are holding down the Fort here at the Lakenheath Fitness Center. God Bless and Take Care!! Much Luv, Sharon, Nesa, and Kali

★ This message is to my husband C. Woods Jr. and to my Father W. Sharpsteen, bey, its Mang-ye and Camai, we just wanted to let you know how proud we are of you. We love and miss you both so much, and we're all doing ok, or as well as expected without you. Camai getting big, she looks just like you charlie :) i wish you were here to see her grow. i love and miss you both, please be safe and hurry home soon, your in all are thoughts and prayers here at home. we love you, and to charlie your my everything baby hurry home. God Bless you and all our troops. Love always, Mrs. Mang-ye and C. Woods-----Darmstadt, Germany

★ Hello, My name is Lauren Daderko. I just wanted to send you a message to let you know that Im thinking and praying for all of you over there. I thank you for keeping us safe and free and trying to do the same for others. Stay safe, kick butt, and get back here fast. We love you and are proud of you. Lauren :)

Babe's ghost invoked to save strip club

BY FOSTER KLUG

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — About a block from Camden Yards, Baltimore's charmingly retro ballpark, sits a gaudy strip club with a spiritual connection to Babe Ruth — and not just because the Bambino was a major-league boozier and skirt-chaser.

Ruth once owned and lived in the three-story building at 38 S. Eutaw St. and ran a bar there, making the site a precious physical reminder of Ruth in the city where he was born.

Now the owner of the strip club, the Goddess, is hoping the Ruth connection can save his business from the wrecking ball.

Baltimore has obtained legal authority to condemn the club and between 40 and 60 other properties to make room for a thriving entertainment corridor near Camden Yards. Goddess owner George Kritikos is hoping to bring the building

nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and the city's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, hoping the distinction will protect the place.

City officials say they have no immediate plans for the property. Sharon Grinnell, chief operating officer of Baltimore Development Corp., says that if the building is given historic recognition, "we would respect that. But we still might want to acquire the property in order for it to be part of a larger development."

Long before the strippers moved in, the bar was known as Ruth's Cafe, Ruth's, whose statue at Camden Yards can be seen from the strip club's front door, bought the building after he helped the Boston Red Sox win the 1915 World Series. During the offseason, he lived in the building, tending bar with his father and teaching neighborhood kids how to box in a back room.

A yellowing photograph a few



feet from the strip club's stage provides a glimpse into Ruth's life during those times. The photo shows Ruth and his father dressed in striped shirts, neckties and white aprons, the bar festooned with ribbons and streamers.

Michael Gibbons, executive director of Baltimore's Babe Ruth Museum, recommends the building to "baseball pilgrims on their

Babe Ruth trail."

"You don't have to go inside for it to be important," he says. "People can come up and point to it and say, 'Babe Ruth bought that bar for his daddy.'"

The 40-year-old Kritikos staked his life savings to buy and renovate the club. He acquired the club eight years ago for \$450,000 and says he has spent \$300,000 renovat-

An undated photograph of Ruth's Cafe, located at 38 South Eutaw Street in Baltimore. Standing behind the bar, far right, is baseball great George Herman "Babe" Ruth Jr., with his father, George Herman Ruth Sr., second from right. The City of Baltimore has obtained legal authority to condemn the bar, now the Goddess strip club, and between 40-60 other properties in west Baltimore.

THE BABE RUTH MUSEUM/AP

ing the building.

"Everything we did in our life is riding here," says Kritikos, a Greek immigrant who came to America at 16. "I came here with no language, no education, ready to do anything I can and believing in the American dream. For them it's a piece of cake. For me, it's a piece of hell. I don't know where it doesn't seem right."

Merriam-Webster updates with pleather and MP3s

BY TRUDY TYNAN

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — "Teensplottation's" time has come — at least in the dictionary. "Pleather," "body wrap," "MP3," and "information technology" are among the other new words and phrases that have gotten the nod from the editors at Merriam-Webster in the annual update of their Collegiate Dictionary.

The inclusion of teensplottation — the exploitation of teenagers by the producers of teen-oriented films — comes 22 years after the word first appeared in show-business publications, said John M. Morse, president and publisher of the Springfield-based dictionary company. And it illustrates how language evolves.

Teensplottation, he explains, is an offshoot of "blaxploitation," a melding of black and exploitation

coined in the 1970s to refer to the exploitation of blacks by producers of films aimed at black audiences.

"It's interesting because we have a new word spawned by another decade later," Morse said. "Both words were the sort that as a lexicographer you approach with interest, but some caution."

The concern is that the words might be "a fad of the moment," he said. Still, over the past two decades "teensplottation" has moved

from entertainment magazines to mainstream publications such as *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New York Times*.

And it is when a word or new usage becomes used with some frequency by the popular press that it becomes a candidate for the dictionary.

About a year after publication of its 11th edition of its Collegiate Dictionary — a wholesale updating done once a decade — the book has gone through four printings with a total of 1 million volumes printed, Morse said.

Twenty years has been a typical time for a word to become used enough to merit a place in an abridged dictionary, says the Collegiate, he said.

"Pleather" — a plastic fabric made to look like leather — first appeared in 1982 and "body wrap," referring to a beauty treatment, appeared in 1974.

But the Internet has speeded

that up. And some of this year's new words had to wait a fraction of that time.

Darnstadium was officially approved as the name for element No. 110 in 2003 and MP3 — as the name for a computer file or the audio file format — first appeared in 1996.

Goggles have been part of the English language and used as eye protection since 1715. But it is only recently that the noun has also come to mean electronic devices enabling users to produce images in a virtual reality display.

Other high-tech words have taken a bit longer to catch on. High-speed Internet access over a "digital subscriber line," has been available since 1982, but DSL is only now making its debut in the Collegiate. "Information technology" — also better known by its acronym IT — was first used to refer to the development, maintenance and use of computer systems, software and networks in 1978.

Judge makes orders in Rosa Parks-OutKast case

DETROIT — A federal judge ordered Thursday that a doctor for civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks explain why Parks cannot testify in a lawsuit she brought against a rap group that used her name without permission. Parks' lawsuit claims the 1998 song "Rosa Parks" by OutKast constituted false advertising and infringed on her trademark rights. The Detroit resident alleges OutKast and record company BMG exploited her name for commercial purposes.

Lawyers for the defense asked to interview Parks to explain claims that she suffered emotional and mental distress because of the song. But Parks' lawyers said the 91-year-old woman suffers from an unspecified medical condition and her doctor does not recommend that she testify. U.S. Magistrate Judge Donald A. Scheer said during a Thursday hearing that Parks' doctor must release records relating to her medical condition and explain why she cannot be questioned.

Scheer also excluded OutKast from the lawsuit — leaving only BMG as a defendant — because the individual members were not named in the suit, and the group's name was incorrect.

The civil rights hero wants her name removed from future versions of the record. She also is seeking unspecified damages. OutKast has argued that the song is neither false advertising nor a violation of Parks' trademark rights and is protected by the First Amendment. Only the title of the song, which is about the entertainment industry, refers to Parks by name. The song's chorus is: "Ah-ha, hush that fussy. Everybody move to the back of the bus."

A jury trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 10.

From The Associated Press

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

To all the men and women in the military: Dear Hero's, I would like to send my deepest gratitude and thanks for the sacrifice that all of you and your families are making for our safety and freedom. It would have been so much easier to stay at home with your families and protect the war. But, like so many before you, you have risen to your country's needs.

You are there (where ever in the world that may be) to prevent us from putting all of our families in harms way here at home. You have volunteered to protect the freedom that we know and love. Because of you, hopefully your families and mine will continue to know freedom. My three grandchildren will be able to grow up in a country where they can have choices. All because of you!

May your God/Supreme Being bless and protect you. Thank you, Grandpa Jerry

May all those involved in this war— Allied soldiers, Iraqi soldiers, civilians and combatants on all sides— escape pain and suffering, and may a just and peaceful resolution be quickly achieved. I oppose this campaign, but I do salute American service-members for doing what they believe is right in the defense of life, liberty, and justice. May the

blood of those who have already died be not in vain, and may their loved ones be consoled in their grief. With Love, Sean S., Misawa AB

Hope you feel prayers, thoughts, gratefulness that we feel for you and those alongside you. We're proud that you have the strength to be over in that part of the world at this most critical time! We're praying for your safe return. Beth, Sean, Liam, Kyle, Luke, Clare Brennan

To all of the fighting men and women of our armed service, I would like to say that the thing that makes us Americans is that when things get tough the tough get together and we do it together as one force. I would like to personally Thank you for keeping me and my family of 3 safe. The greatest gift I have to offer you is my respect and gratitude. So Thank You again from the bottom of my heart and may God be with us all. S. Brown. Huntsville, Ohio

Shipwreck claim

MI TRAVERSE CITY — A Great Lakes treasure hunter has sued to protect a shipwreck he says he discovered but refuses to identify.

Steven Libert of Virginia has tried to lay claim to the Lake Michigan wreck. It is about 3.5 miles west of Poverty Island and Summer Island near the Wisconsin shore, about 55 miles northwest of Leelanau County in Michigan's northwestern Lower Peninsula.

The federal lawsuit contains little information about the vessel's identity, referring to it as a "sailing ship which sank scores of years ago" and possibly having been involved in a "foreign research expedition."

Suing a shipwreck in federal court is a legal means to take ownership of a sunken ship, Traverse City attorney Merritt Green said.

State archaeologist John Halsey says Libert believes he may have found the Griffin, the first European-decked ship to sail the upper Great Lakes and a prize among Great Lake shipwreck hunters.

Slain boy's mother jailed

NJ MOUNT HOLLY — A woman who admitted beating her boyfriend's 3-year-old son to death after he wet the bed was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Karen Molina was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to an aggravated manslaughter charge in March. She initially told police that Stephen Donley's injuries stemmed from a fall, but later told authorities she took him into the bathroom after he wet the bed and slammed his head into a door.

Molina, 34, put the child back in bed and he was found later having seizures, authorities said. The boy died six days later in April 2002; an autopsy determined he died from blunt force trauma to the head.

The boy's father, Bryan Donley, was not home when the beating occurred and was not charged in the case.

No cruising allowed

VA RICHMOND — A city councilman is proposing an anti-prostitution ordinance that would fine motorists who cruise.

Under the proposal by Councilman William J. Pantele, motorists would be able to charge motorists with a traffic infraction for passing by the same point in the same direction more than twice in a three-hour span between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. Each infraction could carry a fine of up to \$100.

The proposal, however, already has raised concerns by the Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which contends the anti-cruising law would conflict with constitutional guarantees "to move about freely in our society."

The new measure is scheduled for a vote Monday.

Infants remains ID'd

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Three infants whose decades-old remains were found in locked trunks last year probably died of natural causes, the county coroner



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

announced Thursday.

The remains were found by Kathleen Manning in trunks she inherited from her mother, Cheri Herzog, who died in 1999. Herzog's personal effects went into storage for four years until Manning began going through them last August.

According to a statement from the Anoka County coroner, the infants included two boys and a girl. The infants were full term or nearly full term when they died, and their deaths probably occurred in the 1960s, the statement said.

Sheriff's Lt. Paul Sommer told the Star Tribune that DNA tests showed two of the infants were Herzog's. Tests on the third baby were inconclusive, but Sommer said investigators believe that child was also Herzog's.

The coroner's statement said there was a family history of hemolytic disease of the newborn, which can cause infant death.

Whale sanctuary opened

HI KAILUA-KONA — State and federal officials opened a Kona office for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary on Thursday.

U.S. Rep. Ed Case, D-Hawaii, and Daniel Basta, director of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Sanctuary were on hand for the opening.



Bear hug

A rare Bornean sun bear cub practices his climbing skills at the San Diego Zoo. Six-month-old Damm is the first-ever of his species to be born in North America. Bornean sun bears are a subspecies of the Malaysian sun bear, found in Southeast Asia and are the smallest member of the bear family.

"This little office is more than it seems to be. It's about community investment," Basta said. "The key is education and awareness. If you teach the public, you can trust them to do the right thing."

Case said the opening of the Kona office is part of a larger conservation and preservation effort.

Recent studies have concluded the world's oceans are in trouble and lawmakers must make funding for natural resources a higher priority, he said.

Candy bar arrest

DC WASHINGTON — Stephanie Willett found out the hard way that Metro takes its no eating and drinking policy in subway stations seriously.

The scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Metro Transit Police unfairly handcuffed, searched and held her for three hours after she had finished chewing a candy bar at a station on July 16.

Willett, 45, of Bowie, Md., said an officer saw her eating a PayDay on her way down an escalator and warned her to finish it before entering the station. Willett and police agree that she nodded and stuffed the last bit into her mouth before throwing the wrapper into a trash can.

But Willett says the officer followed her back into the station and she was arrested after making a remark.

The officer asked for identification, but Willett and police said she kept walking. She said she was then frisked and handcuffed.

Metro's police force has been ridiculed for what some say is extreme enforcement of its no-eating rules.

Arrest in naked burglary

TX SAN ANTONIO — A man accused of breaking into a woman's home wearing nothing but running shoes and a fanny pack has been charged with burglary.

Miguel Ramos, 23, was arrested Friday and charged with burglary of a habitat with intent to assault. He faces five to 99 years in prison on a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

Police say the suspect entered the woman's home through a back window on July 20, pointed a gun at her and told her to remove her clothes. She screamed and he fled after firing two shots from a 40-caliber handgun. No one was hurt.

The suspect stole the woman's wallet and used one of her credit cards at an automated teller machine, where a video camera recorded the transaction, police said.

Ramos already faced trial on the same charge in another case, plus aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

School mulls natural fuel

VT GUILFORD — The Guilford Central School is considering switching to a fuel made from recycled plant oil for its bus fleet, officials say. School board member Carol Levin says biodiesel fuel would cost the district about \$500 more per year than regular diesel. Over time, she said the switch could save money because biodiesel fuel may yield better mileage.



Bobbing for bubbles

Sierra Russell, 6, of Canandaigua, N.Y., chases bubbles at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia, Miss., on Thursday. Since the midweek activities at the fair highlight political speeches from candidates for local, statewide and federal office, Russell was more interested in trying to catch a bubble.



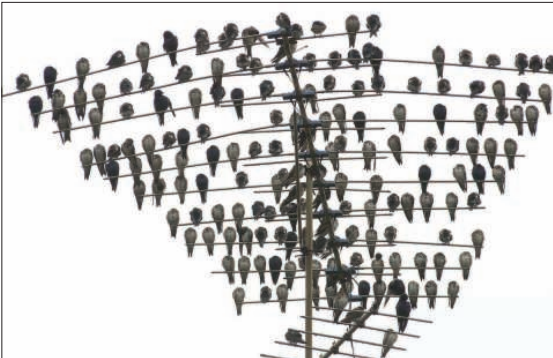
Crowding for Clinton

People wait in line outside a bookstore in Blytheville, Ark., on Thursday to have former President Clinton sign his book "My Life." Clinton signed about one thousand books for customers who lined Main Street in the hot summer sun. Police barricaded the road in front of the book store early in the morning.



Little friend

Logan Darland, 9, of Harrodsburg, Ky., checks out "Spike," a Hickory Horned Devil caterpillar. Darland found Spike in the front yard of his house Thursday. The caterpillar is the larva of the Royal Walnut Moth, also known as the Regal Moth.



Birds of a feather Purple martins perch on an antenna Friday in Sedalia, Mo. For the past four or five years, purple martins have been congregating in the area, staying a couple of weeks before migrating south to Brazil.



Up and away Willie Andrews, right, gives Keenon Tart, 7, left, a watery toss in the Atlanta Parks Department Piedmont Park pool in Atlanta.



Uncle Sam fan Delegate Joe Blanton, 76, from Scottsburg, Ore., listens during the Democratic National Convention at the FleetCenter in Boston on Thursday.



Bird's eye view An osprey perches on a power pole as a nearly full moon rises in the sky over New Smyrna Beach in Florida.

Strikers' grave mistake

MN ST. PAUL — Some grieving families think the Teamsters Local 120 is making a grave mistake.

The union is picketing cemeteries, including when funeral services are in progress, in its strike on the Twin Cities' biggest maker of burial vaults.

Brown-Wilbert Inc. employs about 25 Teamsters, many of whom make burial vaults at a plant in Roseville. But some also deliver and install the vaults at local cemeteries. Since the strike started, Brown-Wilbert managers have been doing that graveside work.

Bunny blast botched

CA CASTRO VALLEY — Lucky the bunny is living up to her name.

It had seemed like Luck had run out: Strapped to a powerful explosive with a lit fuse, Lucky was tossed into a lake.

But the explosive didn't blow up, and the rabbit was pulled out of the water.

Now Lucky's owner and his friend face misdemeanor charges of animal cruelty after photos of the July 13 incident surfaced on the Internet.

Nick Sigmon, 18, and Paul Collins, 20, are accused of taping an illegal M-1000 — a large firecracker equivalent to a quarter stick of dynamite — to the rabbit and throwing her into Lake Don Castro.

Sigmon said he adopted the bunny after almost running over her with his car, but can no longer care for her because he's starting college this fall at University of California, San Diego, where he plans to study biology.

Lucky is recovering at a foster owner's home, where she's snacking hay pellets and doing well.

Foul smell sniffed out

IN LAFAYETTE — Those in charge of blind justice have been holding their noses at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse.

The source of a foul odor that has been lingering in a Superior Court office for a couple weeks might have been found Wednesday when health department workers discovered a large, dead squirrel stuck in the office's duct work.

Attorney Dan Moore said the odor was overpowering.

"It prevents you from taking a deep breath," he said.

Man fends off alligator

FL TAVARES — An 11-foot alligator attacked a man pulling weeds along the shore of a lake, but he saved himself by punching the beast in the nose.

Guy R. Daelemans, 43, suffered leg wounds in Tuesday's attack on Lake Eustis, Lake County sheriff's Lt. Todd Luce said. He was treated and released from a hospital.

A trapper summoned by wildlife officials later caught the 385-pound alligator, which was then killed.

Malpractice suit settled

ME PORTLAND — A jury has awarded a woman \$900,000 in damages after she sued surgeons that botched a sur-

gery on a non-cancerous but painful breast condition five years ago and left her disfigured.

Deanna Vincent sued surgeons Melinda Molin and John Costera in Cumberland County Superior Court after they mistakenly removed her nipples during the operation.

The award handed down Thursday was less than the \$3.1 million Vincent sought, but it was substantial compensation for suffering, said Daniel G. Lilley her attorney. Vincent needed six additional reconstructive operations, and is permanently scarred. She has been treated for depression and post-traumatic stress.

Salmonella outbreak

PA PITTSBURGH — State health officials have identified a second strain of salmonella bacteria linked to at least one person sickened by eating at a Sheetz convenience store.

Some 295 Pennsylvanians have been sickened by a strain of bacteria known as Anatum — in an unopened bag of tomatoes at a Franklin County Sheetz store. Health officials dismissed the discovery because none of the known victims then was sickened by that strain.

Since then, three people have become ill with the Anatum strain, including one who ate at that store, said Richard McGarvey, state health department spokesman. Investigators are trying to determine whether the other two also ate there, McGarvey said.

"What we believe was the source of the outbreak — the tomatoes — have all been pulled" from Sheetz stores, McGarvey said.

Inmate swim knocked

ME CAMDEN — Letting a crew of four inmate laborers working at a state park take a swim after work has landed the work-release program in hot water.

The crew has been suspended and the program could be in jeopardy after park manager Bill Elliot let four inmates swim in Lake Chickawaukie in Rockland.

For more than 20 years, Elliot has used minimum-security prisoners for work around Peaks-Kenny State Park on Sebec Lake and at Camden Hills State Park. He estimates he has supervised 8,000 hours of prison labor without a problem.

But on the afternoon of July 21, Elliot and a sergeant from the prison were driving the inmates back to the Warren lockup when they stopped along Route 17 to let the inmates have a quick swim.

While the swim was brief, some feed it mingled inmates with the general public. Corrections officials said the public wasn't at risk, but the incident could prove to be a public relations problem for the restitution program, which allows minimum-security prisoners nearing release to work outside the prison.

Sunday Horoscope

Mercury, which loves a good conversation, opposes Uranus, which loves to toss in the unexpected twist. Shock and titillation will be the part of the scenario you just can't prepare for. Look out for problems that have to do with taking information out of context or reading too much into a situation. Also, be sure you go straight to the "horse's mouth."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 1.) You can't afford to play small now — you've got big plans and the means to achieve them, too. Much attention comes your way in August. If you're not sure you can take on responsibility, just say "yes" and try. Septimius is filled with romance, and the best signs for lasting love are Aries and Cancer. New business takes off in November.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Integrity ensures your success in a relationship. You won't be able to get away with anything at all today, so play it straight. Master your money so your money won't master you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

If you can at all afford to take the time or use the money, travel! Short trips are just as effective as long ones. You experience what it's like to peer into another world. Your love life opens up when you're not thinking about it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Usually, you love to wing it, but planning is good now — it brings you a sense of satisfaction and helps you remain calm, cool and collected. There are wild rumors flying about tonight. Pay closer attention to your inner voice.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Spontaneity, creativity and insight are your most useful tools today — you can use them to attract new blood to your love life. You're a giver in every sense tonight. You love to be generous, and all you put out multiplies.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Inject a stalled project with more juice. All it takes is an hour of dedication to start getting excited again.

Being with those who really know

you is more important than connecting with business associates or socializing for a cause.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Independent thinking and action are favored. You'll take a logical approach to change. No decision is made on your behalf without careful analysis. You are also likely to put your needs second and nurture the people you love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're tempted to upgrade to the latest and greatest, but the timing isn't right. If something is not broken, don't try to fix it. Complicated relationship issues are featured. Give it time, and don't do anything rash.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Others may hesitate and fumble, but you've got to do what's right. Cutting expenses brings you back into balance, and it doesn't affect your life too much either. Now, you can give money where it can do enormous good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're all flutter over the prospect of something potentially romantic. Jealousy is unfounded, so just forget about it. Tonight, playing the same old role becomes tedious; accept a challenge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Minor problems in a relationship could escalate if they are not dealt with now. You've got the patience to guide that stubborn person toward more positive behaviors. Singles find new romance at community or group events.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Socializing helps you move, though at first you may be anxious about fitting in. Forget it — you're a hit wherever you go. Remember that you are in control, and drop anyone who makes you feel otherwise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You have luck following a tried-and-true recipe for success. A slow-moving project begins to take shape.

There's a bit of confusion about who is supposed to pay what and how much. Review family budgets.

Creators Syndicate

Spitting out a cliché query

When I was little, everyone told me I was the spitting image of my dad. It used to drive me nuts, but now, years later, I'm more interested in where the expression "spitting image" comes from. Can you help?

The original phrase is "spit and image," meaning, as the present phrase does, "a person strikingly like another person." The phrase developed from a use of the noun "spit" to mean "a perfect likeness." This sense of "spit," first recorded in 1825, still occurs in British English, but has fallen into disuse in the United States. It apparently developed from the familiar verb "spit" by way of a once popu-

lar saying that a son with a great resemblance to his father looked as much like his father as he had been spit out of his mouth. (Why being spit out of your father's mouth would make you look like him is a question we can't answer.) Not everyone accepts the above explanation. Some have claimed that the phrase is actually a corruption of the phrase "spirit and image," pronounced by Southern speakers in such a way that "spirit" came eventually to be understood as "spit."

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

No wedding gift is acceptable in most distant relationships

Dear Abby: My sister informed me that her daughter was pregnant and being married at the local courthouse. They live in Kansas. I live in Florida.

The day after the ceremony, my sister e-mailed me, expressing her anger that I did not acknowledge her daughter's "special day." Keep in mind that I have never known her kids, as we have lived so far apart all of their lives. Her other daughters have known their kids, as they can come up with, trying to make me feel bad for "forgetting" about the event. I don't feel I was obligated to do anything, especially when my sister announced it would be "parents only" at the ceremony.

Who's out of line here, in your opinion?

—Distant Aunt in Titusville, Fla.

Dear Distant Aunt: Since you weren't invited to the wedding, you had no obligation to send a gift. I would have been nice if you had marked the occasion with something — a token gift. However, since you are now being "called every name" like I would not, I wouldn't blame you for going from distant aunt to an even more distant one.

Dear Abby: I am a 65-year-old grandmother who had a colostomy a little over a year ago. It wasn't due to cancer or a life-threatening illness. It was due to lack of muscle control because of having children.

Dear Abby

I care for my grandchildren two or three times a week, a 2-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl. How do I explain this to a 4-year-old? I don't want to scare her. From the time she was able to walk she came into the bathroom with me, and now she's curious about why she can't anymore. There's a way you can explain this to a child? Thanks for any advice you can give.

—Grandma in Bristol, Conn.

Dear Grandma: That you had a colostomy because of inconvenience due to childbirth is too much information for a child your granddaughter's age. Simply tell her that she's not a baby anymore and that you would prefer privacy in the bathroom. Most adults do, and it should not require a detailed explanation.

However, if your granddaughter should happen to enter the bathroom expecting you ask specific questions about what she has seen, a brief explanation

that you are all right and that you just go to the bathroom a little differently than she does should suffice.

As she gets older, appropriate information can be provided on a "need-to-know" basis.

Dear Abby: My sister and I are having a debate. I say you do not need to tip hairdressers if they rent their station and take 100 percent of the fees they charge. I say that tipping is only for people on commission. She disagrees.

I want to send my hairdresser a tip if I'm wrong.

—"Curly" in Chesterfield, Mo.
Dear Curly: When in doubt, the wisest policy is to ask if tips are accepted. In many beauty salons, tips are welcomed even by the owner.

For color, cuts and permanents, the usual amount is 15 to 20 percent. For a simple wash and set or blow-dry, it's 15 percent.

In addition, regular customers give their hairdressers — and manicurists — gifts at Christmas. So haul out your wallet; your sister is right.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #8400, Los Angeles CA 90068. Letters can be sent to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pressanddearabby.com>. Universal Press Syndicate

One girl on baseball team gets rude remarks from boys

Dear Annie: My 10-year-old daughter, "Lanie," plays on a Little League baseball team.

She is the only girl on the team, even though the league is co-ed and has been for a number of years. All the other players have been very welcoming to Lanie, except for one boy. He has made several rude remarks about her being a girl on a "boys' team."

Lanie is one of the top players, and I think jealousy is part of the problem. The boy's dad has made some sexist remarks too, which I believe is the root of the boy's attitude. I can ignore the father, but what should Lanie do when the son says these things? It is beginning to bother her.

—Not Only a Boy's Team Anymore

Dear Boy's Team: Lanie should not have to suffer alone. If she is bothered by this boy's juvenile remarks, she should talk to her coach and ask him to handle it.

If Lanie cannot manage this, you should talk to the coach directly.

It is his responsibility to see that the children practice sports-

manship as well as baseball.

Dear Annie: I'm 15 years old and have an illness that, if left untreated, can lead to serious complications, including diabetes and heart disease. This illness has forced me to change my

lifestyle and take many pills. I have been dealing with it for nearly four years and am very careful to take all the necessary precautions.

Every summer I visit my grandma, who doesn't understand my situation. She looks at me as if I'll die any second, acts as if I have no idea how to take care of myself and constantly asks me ridiculous questions.

Worse yet, she has recently taken to discussing my illness with random people on the street.

My parents and I have informed Grandma that my doctors are quite competent and know what they are doing, but she won't stop. She lives in a small town, and it seems like everybody there knows about me, which is, frankly, embarrassing. All her friends have suggestions about what I should do.

I love my grandma very much

and do not wish to hurt her, but how can I get her to stop scrutinizing my every move?

—Old Enough

To Take Care of Myself

Dear Old Enough: First, understand that Grandma is worried about you. Her sense of helplessness makes her frantic to do something, anything, so she can feel she is contributing to your health. If she saw you more often, she would get used to your situation.

Instead, we suggest you enlist her help so she can participate in your care.

Can Grandma cook you a special meal? Bring you water when you take your medication? Anything you trust her to do, let her do it. Also, find some reading material on your illness and go over it together so she can see exactly what's going on.

It's OK to tell Grandma how much it embarrasses you when she discusses your condition with her friends, and that you want these visits to be fun and special, not focused on your illness. We hope this helps.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of *Dear Abby*. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Keep past USDA bias in mind Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal

In 1999, the U.S. Department of Agriculture settled a class-action lawsuit that alleged the agency discriminated against black farmers. At the time, President Clinton applauded the settlement as significant in the "ongoing efforts to rid the Agriculture Department of discriminatory behavior and redress any harm that has been caused by past discrimination against African-American family farmers."

The department agreed to make restitution, at a potential cost of about \$2.3 billion, to 94,000 claimants. So far, it has paid \$657 million to 13,151 claimants and forgiven an additional \$20 million in debts.

The USDA has spent \$12 million contesting individual claims. The slow processing and high rejection rate would be reasonable if it could be put down to caution on the agency's part to prevent fraud.

The record of bias that was the basis for the settlement does not permit giving the agency the benefit of the doubt.

Kerry's wife keeps pens busy Los Angeles Times

Now comes Teresa Heinz Kerry, who (last) Sunday provided desperately needed grit for the mills of commentary at last week's Democratic convention by telling a journalist to "shove it."

Clearly there is something bigger going on here than we originally had hoped.

But the optics of this editorial page, there is nothing to be gained by insulting an editorial writer — even one who makes his living insulting you. In fact, it's unconstitutional. Or it should be.

But the optics of this editorial page, there is nothing to be gained by insulting an editorial writer — even one who makes his living insulting you. In fact, it's unconstitutional. Or it should be. We rarely used three different weapons of rhetorical destruction. The day before "shove it," she accused unnamed opponents of "un-American traits." (Then she feebly denied having said it.) "Un-American" is a uniquely American insult, and just the right thing for a political convention, where almost everything is declared to be uniquely American.

But Heinz Kerry didn't settle for un-American. She also called her unnamed enemies "un-Pennsylvanian." This went too far. Many of us feel that we are insufficiently Pennsylvanian, but we don't wish to be reminded of this. We do what we can. We buy Quaker State motor oil. We remind ourselves that Pittsburgh is the one on the left. But let's face it: We can never be as Pennsylvanian as a woman who owns a huge chunk of the state.

Face-to-face still has its place The Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y.

Duke University's decision to give all of its incoming freshmen iPods this year might spell the demise of the 8 a.m. class.

But get out of bed, tired students will ask, when we can just download that early-morning calculus lecture and listen to it later on my pocket-sized digital stereo? That'll be the option available to students as Duke explores the educational possibilities of the Apple iPod, an MP3 player that is generally used for music.

But it enhances the college experience: The Internet and laptops are already making life easier on campuses, so MP3 players will probably also be useful.

But universities must plan to combat the negatives, too.

A good education comes from more inter-



action with professors and students in the learning community, not less. As long as that is kept in mind, the digital revolution should be welcome in academia.

Make 9/11 report a beginning The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News

The persistence of families of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has resulted in an impressive report from a bipartisan congressional committee.

If the Congress shirks its responsibility in responding to the report's recommendations, or if elected officials choose to use the document as partisan fodder, then all the money, time and effort that went into the investigation will have been in vain. We will continue to be open to future attacks as the ducking and wrangling continues in Washington.

Most of the report's recommendations involve reforming the nation's intelligence community. A key proposal calls for creating an office of a national intelligence director to coordinate 15 intelligence agencies that work, far too often, independently of each other.

That proposal and others, however, are widely predicted to provoke a turf war.

The prevention, inaction and partisan bickering not only insult the memories of the 9/11 victims but also continue to leave our nation vulnerable. Newspapers nationwide plucked a resounding phrase from the report for their [July 23] headlines: "We are not safe." It's essential to the security of this country that our leaders act on this report — and act soon.

Helping voters never gets old The Post-Standard, Syracuse, N.Y.

P. Diddy says he wants to make voting cool, so the hip-hop mogul has launched a nationwide effort to make voting "sexy" and encourage young people to vote. His nonpartisan campaign is called "Citizen Change."

That's cool. The nation's eligible young voters need not be sitting on the sidelines for this presidential or any election, including the ones in their own back yard. They may believe political parties are old-school and out-of-touch, but the truth is that young people have the

same opportunity as any other group — the opportunity to go into a voting booth and pull a lever. Their numbers are such that they really could influence many elections at the local, state and national level.

Unfortunately, the turnout has been terrible among 18-to-25-year-olds. Nearly 50 percent in that age group voted in 1972, the first time 18-year-olds could vote. In 2000, only 29 percent went to the polls.

Yet campaigns such as P. Diddy's and others that have preceded him — Rock the Vote, with Madonna as one of its promoters, Russell Simmons' voter registration drives at his hip-hop summits, BET and MTV voter-awareness messages — are positive and much-needed efforts. They speak to a generation whose voice will be heard louder and clearer if it's backed up by the power of the vote.

No payoff for raising wage Herald-Journal, Spartanburg, S.C.

Sens. Ted Kennedy and John Kerry are pushing for an increase in the minimum wage. They say increasing it will help low-wage workers get out of poverty.

It sounds like a compassionate idea, but it isn't grounded in reality. In fact, increasing the minimum wage would hurt those low-wage workers by taking away their jobs.

Raising the minimum wage kills jobs. Suppose you own a small business employing five people earning the minimum wage. If Kerry and Kennedy were successful, they would force your payroll to rise 36 percent. Many small businesses cannot afford that increase.

And the poor people who Kerry and Kennedy say they want to help are those who will lose their jobs.

Congress should truly help the poor and refrain from raising the minimum wage.

Density is high, funding is low The (Baltimore) Sun

The federal government has pledged \$50 million to cover security costs for [last] week's Democratic National Convention. That's pretty close to what authorities in Boston believe will be spent to protect Fleet Center and the thousands of visitors to the

city. This is notable for at least one reason — as an unusual example of homeland security costs not being foisted on local government by the Bush administration and its allies in Congress.

Remember when Congress declared war on unfunded federal mandates? That was a decade ago and, clearly, homeland security is a major exception to this charming old principle (but hardly unique, since No Child Left Behind and Medicaid share similar status). President Bush and the Republican Congress have spent billions on preparedness but not nearly as much as the combined spending of local governments (despite their own budgetary woes).

Worse, what is spent by the federal government is often not apportioned wisely.

A recent survey found more than half of cities have yet to get a first dollar from the federal government's state-block grants, the nation's largest homeland security program.

Considering how the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks were aimed at two cities, it's a shocking state of affairs.

Lance put wheels in motion News Chief, Winter Haven, Fla.

To use an overworked phrase but one that is truly apt in this instance, Lance Armstrong's sixth straight victory in the Tour de France was totally awesome.

The Tour is an annual curiosity here, but in Europe it is an epic sporting event, 2,100 miles over three weeks over France's incredibly varied terrain, including two formidable mountain ranges, the Alps and Pyrenees.

And it has been run for 101 years.

France comes to a halt while the Tour is being run. Anybody can come watch it — there's no cycling fans — and in their tens of thousands, cycling fans do, waiting patiently for the 150 or so riders to flash by in a blur of colors and a whir of derailleur.

Only four other riders, all legends, have won five times. Not only is Armstrong an American, where cycling is a fringe sport, but he is a cancer survivor and, at 32, the oldest Tour winner.

Not to mention the victory with too much symbolism, it gave the United States' badly battered prestige a needed boost, a reminder that the current tension between the United States and Western Europe is an exception and not the rule.

Winslow rejects biggest offer ever for a night and

The Associated Press

Kellen Winslow Jr. rejected a contract offer — potentially worth at least \$40 million — from the Cleveland Browns on Friday that would have made him the highest paid tight end in NFL history.

Winslow, the No. 6 overall pick in the April draft, was not on the field as the Browns opened training camp.

"I believe the most disappointed guy is Kellen for not being here from the beginning with his teammates," coach Butch Davis said.

The Browns are hoping to avoid a lengthy holdout with Winslow, the former University of Miami star.

Winslow is concerned about another number not related to money. He was issued No. 11 by the Browns during mini-camp but wants No. 80 — the number his father wore during his Hall of Fame career as San Diego.

However, No. 80 belongs to Aaron Shea, who will only give it up for the right price.

"It's going to cost him now," Shea joked. "And it's going to get up every day."

In an unusual move designed to put pressure on Winslow's agent, Kevin Poston, Browns President John Collins released a statement before the club opened camp to announce that the Browns made their "best offer" to Winslow.

Collins said the Browns proposed a deal that matched the one safety Sean Taylor, the No. 5 pick and Winslow's college teammate, signed this week with Washington.

Taylor's package included a \$7.2 million signing bonus that could exceed \$13 million if he reaches incentives. The contract can reportedly escalate to \$40 million over its length.

Also, the Browns said their offer would "far exceed" the \$31 million deal Kansas City's Tony Gonzalez signed in 2002. That package included a \$10 million signing bonus and a \$1 million raise.

The Browns' negotiating tactic is unusual because teams almost never disclose contract figures — even after a deal is done. But the Browns, who earlier this week said they would keep talks private, publicly provided the figures for negotiating.

"I do not negotiate in the media," Poston told The Associated Press. "We are continuing to negotiate with the Browns to obtain for Kellen Winslow II his

fair market value."

On Saturday, Buffalo signed first-round draft pick J.P. Losman to a five-year contract. Losman, a quarterback from Tulane selected 22nd overall, got a deal that includes a \$5.6 million signing bonus and could be worth as much as \$24.5 million with incentives. The Bills hope Losman will eventually replace starter Drew Bledsoe.

In NFL news from Friday:

■ Wide receiver Reggie Williams, the ninth overall draft pick, agreed in principle to a contract with Jacksonville. Also coming to terms with the Jaguars were linebacker Daryl Smith, running back Greg Gines, linebacker Jorge Cordova and wide receiver Ernest Wilford.

■ Carolina agreed on a five-year contract with first-round draft pick Chris Gamble. Details were unavailable, but the cornerback from Ohio State would be expected to earn about \$1.5 million per season, based on contracts of similar draft picks.

■ New England signed safety Guss Scott and running back Cedric Cobbs, third- and fifth-round draft picks. Tight end Ben Watson, the team's second first-round pick, is its only unsigned rookie.

■ Tennessee agreed to terms with tight end Ben Troupe and defensive ends Travis LaBoy, Antwan Odom and Bo Schobel, the last of their draft picks to sign. Troupe was the Titans' top pick after the team traded out of the first round.

■ Denver signed running back Tatum Bell, their second-round draft pick and 41st overall selection. Terms were not disclosed.

■ Dallas agreed in principle on a deal with offensive tackle Jacob Rogers, second-round pick from Southern Cal. Safety Darren Woodson will be placed on the physically unable to perform list.

■ Miami signed first-round Vernon Carey to a five-year contract. Carey, a 6-foot-4, 335-pound offensive lineman was the 19th overall pick.

■ Minnesota signed first-round draft pick Kenechi Udezue to a five-year contract. The defensive end from Texas was taken 20th overall.

■ James Hanson, who has been traded for his remaining unsigned rookies, including first-round pick Rashawn Woods, a receiver from Oklahoma State taken 31st overall. Woods got a five-year deal.

■ James Hanson, who has been traded for his remaining unsigned rookies, including first-round pick Rashawn Woods, a receiver from Oklahoma State taken 31st overall. Woods got a five-year deal. The Lions began training camp under receiver Roy Williams, the team's first draft pick.

Former Giants outfielder tells feds he got drugs from Bonds' trainer

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A former San Francisco Giants outfielder told a federal investigator that he obtained performance-enhancing drugs from the trainer for Giants slugger Barry Bonds, a newspaper reported Saturday.

An investigative memo obtained by the Associated Press from Chronicle says that Armando Rios, now in the minor leagues, told an Internal Revenue Service special agent that he purchased a human-growth hormone and testosterone from Bonds' trainer, Greg Anderson.

Additional memo detailed claims by John McEwen, the second-ranked U.S. hammer thrower in 2003, and San Francisco State University sprint coach Kenny McDaniel and LaKiesha Givens, the newspaper reported.

The three allegedly told an IRS special agent they acquired drugs from Victor Conte, owner of Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Sports briefs

"Everyone is taking it," McDaniel claims Conte told him of a drug called "rocket fuel," according to the memo.

Anderson's lawyer, Anna Ling, rejected the memo's claims and said the government was persecuting her client with "outrageous" leaks to the news media.

Anderson, Conte and others have been accused in an indictment of conspiracy to distribute illegal performance-enhancing drugs to top athletes. They have pleaded not guilty.

Bonds has denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

Iverson, James, Stoudemire suspended for exhibition game
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Andre Iverson, LeBron James and Amare Stoudemire of the United States Olympic basketball team

were suspended from Saturday's exhibition game against Puerto Rico for missing a team meeting.

Sharapova ousted in Calif.

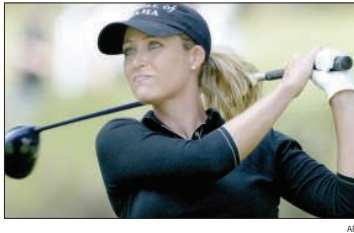
CARLSBAD, Calif. — French Open Federer stretcher his winning streak to 21 matches by beating Fabrice Santoro 7-5, 6-4 Friday to reach the Tennis Masters Canada semifinals.

Dan Jansen, 2002, said qualifier Jan Herych 6-4, 6-2.

Roddick's win streak hits 21

TORONTO — Top-ranked Roger Federer stretched his winning streak to 21 matches by beating Fabrice Santoro 7-5, 6-4 Friday to reach the Tennis Masters Canada semifinals.

Dan Jansen, 2002, said qualifier Jan Herych 6-4, 6-2.



Kirstie Kerr, a 26-year-old from Miami, shot 9-under 63 on Saturday to move within a shot of the lead in the Women's British Open.

Daly makes a move, shoots 64 in Buick

The Associated Press

GRAND BLANC, Mich. — John Daly walked to the clubhouse with a can of diet cola in one hand, a trophy in the other and a smile on his chubby face.

After matching his best round of the year with an 8-under 64 Friday in the Buick Open, Daly was presented with a replica trophy earned from his victory in the Buick Invitational six months ago.

When tournament officials offered to ship it to him, the winner of five PGA Tour events — including two majors — politely declined.

"I haven't seen too many of these. We'll just put it in the bus," Daly said, referring to his luxury motor home.

Daly is one of many familiar names on the leader board.

Vijay Singh shared the second-round lead with Jim Furyk and Billy Andrade at 11-under.

Furyk was tied with three others at 10-under, one stroke behind the leaders. Tiger Woods had a 4-under 68 and was among four others another shot back.

Despite playing eight par-5 holes in only 1-under during the tournament, Woods was pleased with his position.

"I'm right there," Woods said. "The cut was 4-under, matching the low for the season on the PGA Tour and the lowest in Buick Open history."

"There are some good names, but no matter who is on the board, you're going to have to make a bunch of birdies," Woods said. "It's just the nature of this golf course and tournament. You can't go out there and make a bunch of pars."

Warwick Hills, which typically yields low scores, forces players to be aggressive. Stewart Cink, who shot 65 on Friday, said "It's dart-throwing golf."

Singh, who shot 70 on Friday after starting the day with a one-stroke lead, was one of the few on the leader board unable to take advantage of soggy conditions that made the course play easier than usual.

"It was a tough day," he said. "I'm happy to be still leading." Furyk, playing in his fourth tournament since having wrist surgery in March, shot a second-round 67 and had a good chance to become the event's first back-to-back winner since Tony Lema in 1965.

Golf roundup

Last year's U.S. Open champion has been in the 60s in 14 of his past 16 rounds at Warwick Hills.

Finnish teen breaks record in professional major with a 62

SUNNINGDALE, England — Minea Blomqvist of Finland made a 60-for 63 round to put on the final hole Saturday for the lowest round ever in a major, a 10-under 62 in the third round of the Women's British Open.

Blomqvist, 19, had six birdies and two eagles on the Old Course at Sunningdale, breaking the tournament record of 63 set three years ago by Karen Webb at Turnberry. She also broke Webb's course record of 63 set in 1997.

Five women and 21 men have shot 63s in majors.

Blomqvist started the third round 11 shots out of the lead, but entered the final four holes behind co-leaders Rachel Teske and Heather Bowie, each of whom shot 65.

"I had a feeling today that everything is going good," Blomqvist said. "And that's always an easy feeling. Yesterday, I couldn't concentrate on any putt. Today, it was totally different."

Bowie and Teske were one stroke ahead of Karen Stupples (70) and Cristie Kerr (63).

Amika Sorenstam made a double-bogie on the first and 14th holes, three-putting each time. She shot 70 and trails the leaders by five.

Donald up by three in Sweden

Masters LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden — Luke Donald shot 3-under 69 Saturday to take a three-shot lead over Peter Hanson after the third round of the Scandinavian Masters.

Jacobson leads as rain stops Senior U.S. Open

ST. LOUIS — The second round of the U.S. Senior Open was postponed due to unplayable conditions and the USGA plans to complete the championship with 36 holes on Sunday.

Peter Jacobson was the first-round leader with a 6-under 65. Craig Stadler was second at 5-under.

Brunell ready to lead again in Washington

Veteran optimistic about Redskins after bitter ending in Jacksonville

BY JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

During a Washington Redskins spring practice, when coach Joe Gibbs was on a regimented schedule to get his players to learn the new offense, Mark Brunell looked at tight end Walter Rasby in the huddle and decided to make up a play.

"Ras, what do you think?" Brunell said. "You want to go right? You want to go left? You let me know. I'll let you be quarterback."

It was good for a laugh, and, more importantly, it added another small piece to the camaraderie the quarterback is trying to build with new teammates in a new city. Brunell, with his telegenic looks and impeccable lifestyle, might seem too good to be true, but the new faces around him say he's just plain good.

"Good guy, family guy, out in the community," Rasby said.

"It's not that when you're around Mark you feel compelled to be some squeaky-clean person that you're not. You can be yourself. He jokes. He laughs."

That's what you want out of a leader. Mark does a great job of keeping guys loose. We might not complete a pass for five plays, Mark is still loose. He doesn't feel pressured."

Receiver Rod Gardner smiled as he described Brunell as "laid-back and calm."

"You can tell he's a veteran quarterback," Gardner said. "Not too much excites him."

Brunell began this weekend's training camp as the presumptive opening day starter, having signed a seven-year, \$43 million contract with the Redskins seven months ago. The fact that he is loose and relaxed indicates a full recovery from a year ago, when he stewed through a sour final season in Jacksonville.

For nine years, Brunell was quintessential Mr. Jaguar, the white face and star quarterback back from the franchise's open-



An injured elbow, the play of Byron Leftwich and a demotion to third string let Mark Brunell, above, know it was time to leave the Jacksonville Jaguars. He signed a seven-year, \$43 million contract with the Washington Redskins, and it appears that he will unseat the younger Patrick Ramsey as the starting quarterback.

ing day in 1995. He nearly led Jacksonville to an improbable Super Bowl berth in 1996. The father of four, he started 117 games, went to three Pro Bowls and was twice named the team's Man of the Year for community service. Everyone assumed he'd be there forever.

"My plans were to finish there," Brunell said. "And that was what I had hoped and what I had thought would take place. But it's a different business than it used to be."

The vet was knocked off his perch by a rookie, Byron Leftwich, and a new coach, Jack Del Rio, who demoted Brunell to third string by the end of last season. An early-season elbow injury set the process in motion, but it was clear the end was near even after it healed.

It all made for a long goodbye, although Brunell, being the optimist that he is, figures it was better than the shock of being cut without notice.

"That was difficult," Brunell

said. "But the fact that it took some time — over the course of most of the season we knew we would be going elsewhere — that made it easier. It wasn't something that happened suddenly. It's harder on the family than it is on the player. Your roots are there. You've got friends and a church."

The roots were finally upended when the Jaguars traded Brunell to the Redskins for a third-round draft pick, giving Brunell his desired fresh start.

Washington, however, is the land of endless quarterback controversies — 15 starters over the past 11 seasons — and Brunell finds himself in another one. Patrick Ramsey, the Redskins' 2002 first-round draft pick, had been expected to be the long-term future of the franchise, but Gibbs decided he wanted a proven veteran.

Although Gibbs has promised a fair competition, Brunell is the overwhelming favorite to win the job. The young-vet-old-talents are turned from last season, but Brunell said he has no empathy for Ramsey.

"Not at all. This is a business," Brunell said. "And competition, I think, breeds success. It makes players better. We don't always like it. I was an old guy that had a young guy supplant me last year, but I understand that's part of the business."

That said, this will be one of the most polite competitions ever. Brunell and Ramsey are cut from the same mold — clean-cut, polite, community-oriented and religious. They even enjoy the same hobbies.

"We're both believers. We both like the outdoors. We both like to golf," Ramsey said. "We have a lot in common, obviously."

Said Brunell: "He's a great guy to work with. He's a workaholic, has a great attitude. He's got a bright future. We're becoming good friends. That's the environment that you want."

It takes nearly as long to read Brunell's list of community activities as it does his stats, with listings such as Dreams Come True and Cops for Kids.

Brunell's work — on and off the field — will continue in Washington, although it's far from certain how long he will be here. He'll turn 34 next month, but he's well rested from playing so little last season. Plus, he's modified his game as he's gotten older, using his smarts to overcome the fact that he can't scramble as much as he once did.

"Someone said after Year 10, you take it one at a time. But I feel great. And I still love the game as much as I always have."

Mark Brunell
Redskins quarterback

"Someone said after Year 10, you take it one at a time. But I feel great. And I still love the game as much as I always have."

Warner maintains he is Giants' QB — for now

BY TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — While Eli Manning has a bright future and a bank account filled with money, two-time NFL MVP Kurt Warner believes the job of quarterbacking the New York Giants is his.

At least for now.

"I am going to go in there and prove to them that I deserve to be the starter," Warner said Friday after the Giants opened their first training camp under Tom Coughlin. "I think that no matter what player has to approach it."

Warner, who signed a



Kurt Warner

The only drawback is that Warner, 33, feels he has a lot of injuries to play despite battling injuries in recent years.

The Giants, on the other hand, didn't give Manning a \$20 million signing bonus and a nearly \$50 million contract on Thursday to sit the bench.

"If he is the better quarterback, he should be the one playing, plain and simple," Warner said. "If I am not as good, I should not be the one starting. That's the way I think you have to approach it. As a professional you have to say what is best for the New York Giants."

"Of course, I am going to believe and try to prove I am that guy," Warner reiterated.

What Manning doesn't have is the experience of Warner, who led the Rams to two Super Bowls appearances, including one title and an MVP award.

Warner insisted he won't hesitate to show the ropes to Manning, the brother of Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts, last season's co-MVP.

"I think it's always good to have someone to push you," Eli Manning said of Warner. "He's going to push me. It's a friendly compe-

tion. I'm not going to try to sabotage him in any way, do anything bad. I talked to him and we're fine. So I'm still going to work hard and compete for the starting job."

El Manning showed glimpses of his inexperience and potential in his first workout.

Manning did not read the defense on a look-in pattern during a seven-on-seven drill halfway through the morning workout and cornerback Ray Green easily intercepted his pass.

On the other hand, Manning looked very confident before calling the plays and taking the snaps.

Mears wins pole at Pocomo

Ganassi driver has two ARCA victories at track

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Casey Mears already knows what it's like to win at Pocomo Raceway, even if it was only two ARCA races. One year and a couple of levels later, Mears has put himself in a perfect situation to duplicate his success at the track.

Mears, driving a Dodge for Target Chip Ganassi Racing, turned a lap of 171.720 mph Friday for his first career pole in 56 tries. He topped the fourth-place start he earned last year in Chicago. Mears does have seven top-10 finishes this year, but none better than seventh.

"This team is really going to the next level," Mears said.

"We've been seventh, seventh, seventh. We need to crack that top five. If we can crack that top five, we can win races."

A light drizzle and heavy fog shortened practice to an hour and delayed qualifying for the Pennsylvania 500. But it didn't bother

Mears, nephew of four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Rick Mears.

Instead, Mears went out and fulfilled some of the promise he's shown in flashes this season. It seemed only fitting it happened at Pocomo.

Mears struggled for most of his rookie season until Ganassi entered him last year in both ARCA races at Pocomo and he won both for his first stock-car victories. The races were on consecutive nights because one at the track in June was postponed by rain.

Then Mears completed the 900-mile Pocomo triple with a 35th-place finish in the Pennsylvania 500.

"It was pretty apparent by the end of last year we needed to pick it up," Mears said. "If we didn't pick it up, I don't think I'd be around by the middle of this year."

The Pocomo marathon might have been the turning point for Mears, who starts Sunday's race 17th in NASCAR Nextel Cup points. Mears started 21st and finished

10th in the Pocomo 500 on the same track seven weeks ago.

"When we come here, I feel like I'm at home a little bit," he said. "For some season, some tracks just come to drivers, and I've adapted well to this track for some reason."

Joe Nemechek, who posted the best practice time, was second in a Chevrolet at 171.654 and Kurt Busch third in a Ford at 171.540.

Sterling Marlin and Elliott Sander rounded out the top five.

They could benefit from their strong pole qualifying session — the last four races at Pocomo have been won from a top-five starting position.

The series standings are tight as the 10-race chase for the championship heats up. There are just seven races left to earn a spot as one of the 10 drivers who will participate in the championship, and only 48 points separate sixth place from 10th.

Pennsylvania 500 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday's qualifying race Sunday
at Pocomo Raceway

Long Pond, Pa.
Lap Length: 2.5 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 171.720 mph.
2. (01) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 171.654 mph.
3. (07) Kurt Busch, Ford, 171.540 mph.
4. (10) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 171.256 mph.
5. (38) Elliott Sander, Ford, 171.168 mph.
6. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 171.006 mph.
7. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 170.992 mph.
8. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 170.784 mph.
9. (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 170.775 mph.
10. (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 170.682 mph.
11. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 170.623 mph.
12. (12) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 170.623 mph.
13. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 170.522 mph.
14. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 170.467 mph.
15. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 170.380 mph.
16. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 170.377 mph.
17. (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 170.021 mph.
18. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 169.926 mph.
19. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 169.603 mph.
20. (0) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 169.546 mph.
21. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 169.543 mph.
22. (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 169.431 mph.
23. (99) Jeff Burton, Ford, 169.275 mph.
24. (50) P. J. Jones, Dodge, 169.259 mph.
25. (45) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 169.182 mph.
26. (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 169.068 mph.
27. (10) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 169.036 mph.
28. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 168.634 mph.
29. (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 168.416 mph.
30. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 168.290 mph.
31. (30) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 167.939 mph.
32. (43) Jeff Green, Dodge, 167.904 mph.
33. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 167.576 mph.
34. (50) P. J. Jones, Dodge, 167.159 mph.
35. (23) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 166.960 mph.
36. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet, 166.803 mph.
37. (58) Todd Bodine, Ford, 166.488 mph.
38. (13) Greg Sacks, Dodge, 165.990 mph.
39. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, provisional.
40. (89) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, provisional.
41. (72) Kirk Sheldermine, Ford, provisional.
42. (80) Carl Long, Ford, provisional.
43. (51) Kevin Lepage, Chevrolet, failed to qualify.
44. (17) Andy Hillenburg, Dodge, 163.500 mph.
45. (00) A.J. Henriksen, Ford, 139.247 mph.

Teeing it up in Darmstadt



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Darmstadt Diamonds quarterback Cliff Smith eludes the tackle of Hanau Hornets' Filip Powell and throws for a first down during a semi-pro football game Saturday in Darmstadt, Germany. Several Americans play in this German league, but there's a catch. Each team is allowed up to six U.S. players on its roster, but only four per game. Also, each team can have only two Americans on the field at the same time. Darmstadt defeated Hanau 36-6.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Darmstadt Diamonds head coach David Eidem, center, draws up a play during a timeout Saturday in Darmstadt, Germany. Eidem is an American teacher at Wiesbaden Middle School.

Truex breaks track record in Busch Series qualifying

The Associated Press

FOUNTAIN, Colo. — Martin Truex Jr. capitalized on cool weather and a 70-minute rain delay to break the track record in NASCAR Busch Series qualifying Friday at Pikes Peak International Raceway.

His speed of 137.478 mph on the 1-mile oval broke the record of 135.629, set by Jeff Purvis in 2000. It was Truex's sixth pole of the year and the fifth time he's broken a track standard.

"When that rain came down and washed the rubber off, we had all the grip," Truex said. "It's tough to get days like this, but

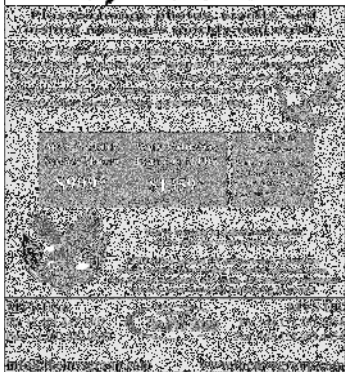
when you do you've got to make the most of them. And we did."

In all, 13 drivers surpassed the old record. Rookie sensation Kyle Busch, whose lap was run much earlier than that of Truex, had the second-fastest speed at 137.384. That put two Chevrolets on the front row for Saturday's Goulds Pumps/ITT Industries 250.

"To go out there early and put up a good lap, and give somebody something to shoot for, that's probably why we lost the pole," Busch said.

Truex and Busch have been battling each other all season. Truex leads the series standings with 2,993 points. Busch is second with 2,899.

YES, YOU CAN.





New York's Kaz Matsui is unable to complete a double play after being upended by Atlanta's Chipper Jones.

Big Unit frustration

'Everything just takes a life of its own,' Johnson says as he lashes out at media over trade stories

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Randy Johnson has heard enough.

A month's worth of trade rumors have taken their toll on the big left-hander, and Friday night he let loose after allowing four runs and striking out six in what might have been his last start for Arizona, a 4-1 loss to the Colorado Rockies.

"I'm kind of getting tired of everybody writing their own little story," Johnson said. "I haven't said anything since the All-Star break about this and it's taking a life of its own. If this was a tin can filled with water there would be no water in the can, there are so many holes."

Some of the stories center around where Johnson could play next. The New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers and Anaheim Angels have been rumored to have shown interest.

There also have been stories that Johnson gave the Diamondbacks a short list of teams he'd go to, that he has vetoed potential deals and that he wanted a contract extension.

"Everything just takes a life of its own," Johnson said. "I feel like I'm in a fish bowl, which is really unfortunate because all I want to do is win and play and have fun. The only thing that is missing in 'Traded' is the paparazzi in my back yard or collecting garbage out of my garbage can."

On Friday, Johnson allowed just one baserunner before Royce Clayton homered leading off the seventh. Larry Walker and Pre-

NL Roundup

ston Wilson singled with two outs and Matt Holliday followed with a high fly down the line that right fielder Danny Bautista couldn't catch. Two runs scored on the triple, and Todd Greene hit a run-scoring double.

Johnson is 0-3 in his last five starts despite allowing nine earned runs over 34 innings.

Cubs 10, Phillies 7: Aramis Ramirez hit three home runs, and the host Cubs rallied to send slumping Philadelphia to its fifth straight loss. Ramirez hit solo homers off Eric Milton in the second and sixth and another off Roberto Hernandez in the seventh.

The Phillies blew a 6-3 lead after Bobby Abreu and Pat Burrell hit two homers each off Mark Prior.

The Cubs put together seven hits in a five-run sixth inning. Latroy Hawkins got his 15th save.

Dodgers 12, Padres 3: Milton Bradley homered twice and Jeff Weaver (8-10) pitched eight innings of four-hit ball to help Los Angeles take a 3½-game lead over the host Padres in the NL West.

Bradley also robbed Phil Nevin of a two-run homer in the third, when he made a backhanded grab over the fence.

Adam Eaton (6-9) allowed seven runs on nine hits in 3½ innings.

Cardinals 7, Giants 4: Barry

Bonds hit his 685th homer, but Jim Edmonds had a two-run triple during visiting St. Louis' six-run sixth inning.

Chris Carpenter (11-4) pitched 6½ innings and won despite allowing three homers. Jason Iraheta got his 27th save.

Braves 3, Mets 1: Marcus Giles had three hits and drove in the go-ahead run as host Atlanta handed New York its 12th loss in 17 games. Mike Hampton (7-8) pitched four-hit ball over seven innings and John Smoltz got his 24th save.

Expos 9, Marlins 0: Livan Hernandez pitched a three-hitter and Brad Wilkerson and Nick Johnson homered as visiting Montreal spoiled Josh Beckett's third return from the disabled list.

Beckett (4-6), out since July 6 because of torn skin on his right middle finger, lasted only three-plus innings, allowing four runs on six hits.

Hernandez (8-10) went 3-for-4 with a two-run double in the eighth.

Brewers 5, Pirates 0: Doug Davis allowed four hits in seven innings and Brady Clark hit a two-run double to lead host Milwaukee over Pittsburgh.

Davis (10-9) snapped his three-game losing streak with the help of two double plays.

Reds 3, Astros 2 (13): Jason LaRue doubled in Willy Mo Pena with two out in the 13th as host Cincinnati won a game suspended after six innings Friday because of rain and delayed again Saturday for over an hour because of showers.

Man, 48, dies in fall at Brewers' stadium

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — A 48-year-old Madison, Wis., man died Friday from injuries when he fell 17 feet from an escalator at Miller Park on Thursday.

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department spokesman Kim Brooks said James A. Kolata fell Thursday while at the stadium for a game between the Milwaukee Brewers and Chicago Cubs.

The man was sitting on the escalator handrail while going from the field level to the second level when he fell, she said.

He was taken to Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital, where he died at about 5 p.m. Friday. An autopsy is planned for Saturday.

Kapler says Red Sox must avoid more trouble

MINNEAPOLIS — The Boston Red Sox plan to be on their best behavior from now on.

After their bench-clearing brawl with the New York Yankees earned suspensions for Jason Vartek, Gabe Kapler and Todd Nixson, the Red Sox face the prospect of being without four regulars for a crucial part of the season, pending David Ortiz's appeal of an earlier five-game suspension.

Not exactly the position the Red Sox want to be in while chasing the Yankees in the AL East. New York leads by 7½ games.

"I think that guys are just concerned that we all stay on the field as much as possible," Kapler said Friday. "We can't have guys that are vital to this team (who) have an opportunity to go and win the World Series not on the field. We can't have that."

Halladay making progress

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Toronto right-hander Roy Halladay is making progress in his rehabilitation program for shoulder fatigue and could rejoin the Blue Jays in early September.

Halladay, last season's AL Cy Young Award winner, went on the 15-day disabled list July 20. He is 7-7 with a 4.35 ERA.

Briefs

"We feel like we're making progress," Halladay said. "For the most part, every day I feel like things are getting better."

Halladay is scheduled to resume throwing a week from Monday. He has been working out and undergoing treatment at Toronto's spring training facility in Dunedin, Fla.

Mayor: Yanks must build stadium with private money

NEW YORK — Given New York's financial status, the New York Yankees shouldn't expect the city to kick in a lot of cash toward building a new stadium, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Friday.

"It's got to be done with private money," Bloomberg said. "We need a new Yankee Stadium. We need a new Shea Stadium. In fact, we need a new Madison Square Garden. Unfortunately, the city doesn't have a lot of money."

Bloomberg's comments came a day after Crain's New York Business reported that the Yankees agreed to build a \$750 million stadium across the street from the existing Yankee Stadium.

Angels terminate Mondesi's contract

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels terminated Raul Mondesi's contract Friday after the enigmatic outfielder failed to show up for a rehabilitation appointment in Southern California.

Mondesi, 34, was placed on the disabled list because of a torn right quadriceps just 11 days after signing as a free agent with the injury-riddled Angels. The contract was to pay him \$1.75 million for the rest of the season.

Mondesi played eight games with Anaheim, going 4-for-34.

Mondesi began this season with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who terminated his contract on May 19, 12 days after he left the Bucs to return to his native Dominican Republic and fight a lawsuit.

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Brown's strong return a positive for Yanks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For weeks, the New York Yankees have been waiting to learn about the health of several star players.

They began to get some answers Friday night.

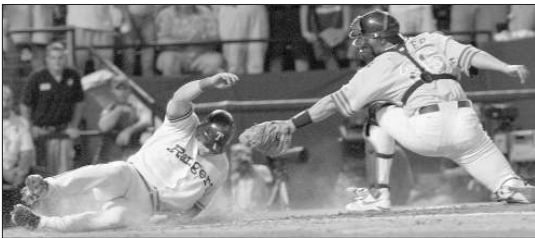
Kevin Brown came off the disabled list and gave the Yankees a big boost in his first start in more than seven weeks, pitching New York to a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

"It was great to be back on the mound," said Brown, sidelined since June 10 with lower back spasms and an intestinal parasite. "When you go out there, you realize how much you miss it. Sitting around and waiting was tough."

After the game, the Yankees announced that All-Star slugger Jason Giambi was diagnosed with a benign tumor and is expected to return to the team later this season after undergoing treatment.

Giambi has felt weak for months and was anxious to find out why. He was placed on the 15-day disabled list and will be treated immediately. The team, citing privacy issues, declined to divulge the location of the tumor or the type of treatment.

Yankees manager Joe Torre



Texas' Laynce Nix avoids the tag of Oakland catcher Damian Miller to score in the eighth inning Friday night.

said he didn't believe surgery would be necessary. There is no timetable yet for Giambi's return.

Alex Rodriguez homered and drove in two runs for New York.

On the night before baseball's trade deadline — with speculation swirling about whether the Yankees will be able to strike a deal with Arizona for Randy Johnson — Brown (8-1) was impressive. He allowed one run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out five and walking two.

"For someone who missed two months in the season, he gave us

everything we needed," Torre said. "He got loose quickly, and that was a good sign."

Especially considering that fellow starter Mike Mussina is still out because of a stiff elbow.

Tom Gordon struck out the side in the eighth inning and Mariano Rivera got three outs for his major league-leading 36th save.

Daniel Cabrera (8-5) took the loss for the Orioles, who scored on a homer by B.J. Surhoff.

Red Sox 8, Twins 2: Bronson Arroyo pitched seven-plus innings, Gabe Kapler drove in

three runs and visiting Boston ended the Twins' four-game winning streak.

Arroyo (4-7) allowed two runs and struck out eight in his first start since last week's brawl at Fenway Park with the Yankees. The fight started after Arroyo hit Rodriguez with a pitch and led to six players being suspended and/or fined.

Tigers 5, White Sox 4: Bobby Higginson drew a tiebreaking walk from Damaso Marte (4-4) with the bases loaded and two outs in the eighth inning, sending

visiting Chicago to its sixth straight loss. Dmitri Young hit a two-run homer for the Tigers.

Blue Jays 3, Devil Rays 0: Josh Towers (6-3) won his fourth straight start for host Tampa with seven innings of two-hit ball, and Josh Phelps homered twice.

Rangers 7, Athletics 5: Laynce Nix and Michael Young hit consecutive two-run singles with two outs in the eighth and the host Rangers rallied from an early four-run deficit to reclaim first place in the AL West.

Oakland starter Rich Harden held the Rangers hitless until the fourth and left after six with a 4-2 lead. The bullpen failed, and Chad Bradford (5-5) took the loss.

Frankie Francisco (2-1) pitched a hitless eighth for the win, ending a six-game winning streak for the A's. Francisco Cordero got his 31st save for Texas, which had lost three straight and five of six.

Angels 6, Mariners 5: Bengie Molina hit a two-run, go-ahead single with two outs in the eighth inning, and the host Angels got homers from Robb Quinlan and Jose Guillen.

Indians 7, Royals 6 (11): Omar Vizquel led off the 11th with a triple against Scott Sullivan (3-4) and scored on Matt Lawton's sacrifice fly for visiting Cleveland.

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Major League scoreboard

[illegible]

Major League Baseball statistics

Through July 30

American League

TEAM	AB	R	HR	BB	Avg
Anaheim	3073	101	37	491	.280
Cleveland	3051	102	38	546	.280
Boston	3050	109	41	546	.280
Detroit	3050	111	40	546	.280
Baltimore	3051	112	40	546	.280
Calgary	3051	112	40	546	.280
Chicago	3051	112	40	546	.280
Toronto	3051	112	40	546	.280
Minnesota	3050	108	38	546	.280
New York	3051	112	40	546	.280
Seattle	3051	112	40	546	.280
Tampa Bay	3051	112	40	546	.280
Kansas City	3051	112	40	546	.280

INDIVIDUAL	AB	R	HR	BB	Avg
Barry Bonds	501	107	13	63	.332
Bruce Sison	309	72	10	55	.344
Mora	309	72	10	55	.344
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McNair	309	72	10	55	.344
Alvarez	309	72	10	55	.344

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Dodgers, Mets make biggest trade splashes

Walker, Johnson among top names still available

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

As time wound down for teams still hoping to make a big deal before Saturday's 4 p.m. EDT trade deadline, some of the most exciting players available had already switched uniforms.

Brad Penny, Paul Lo Duca and Kris Benson were among the big names on the move Friday, while other stars such as Randy Johnson and Larry Walker waiting to see where they might end up.

The Dodgers announced at press time Saturday they had acquired centerfielder Steve Finley from Arizona.

"Where am I going? I haven't heard," I deal with that every day," said Walker, Colorado's hard-hitting outfielder.

If Penny plans to win any more World Series games this season, it will be with the NL West-leading Dodgers instead of Florida.

The Marlins traded Penny, first baseman Hee Seop Choi and minor league left-hander Bill Murphy to Los Angeles for Lo Duca, reliever Guillermo Mota and outfielder Juan Encarnacion.

Penny, who is 8-8 with a 3.15 ERA in 21 starts, should help strengthen the Dodgers' starting rotation.

He is Florida's career leader with 48 wins, and he won two games in last season's World Series victory over the New York Yankees.

"We're thrilled to be able to add a front-line starter, especially given what was available in the marketplace," Los Angeles General Manager Paul DePodesta said.

Charles Johnson could be Lo Duca's replacement behind the plate in Los Angeles as a deal that would send him from Colorado to the Dodgers was being held up while he decides if he wants to waive his no-trade clause.

Florida and Los Angeles announced minor trades Saturday shortly before the deadline for deals without waivers.

The Dodgers sent left-handed reliever Tom Martin and cash to the Atlanta Braves for a minor league pitcher. The Marlins acquired well-traveled right-handed reliever Rudy Seanez from the Kansas City Royals for outfielder Abraham Nunez.

The New York Mets made a couple of big moves Friday, getting two starting pitchers in Benson and Victor Zambrano.

"It's kind of a relief just to get it over with. It's been a tough day," Benson said after Pittsburgh sent him to the Mets. "If there was a team I'd be excited to go to, it would be them."

The Mets are in fourth place, seven games behind NL East-leading Atlanta, but



Brad Penny was traded from the Florida Marlins to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday as part of a six-player trade.

they hope Benson and Zambrano can give them a late push. They sent a private plane to bring Benson to Atlanta, and he planned to start Saturday night against the Braves.

The main focus for the Diamondbacks involved Randy Johnson.

The Yankees desperately want the Big Unit, but did not seem to have the right package of prospects to get him — and Arizona did not appear inclined to trade him.

Randy Johnson pitched his final game for last-place Arizona and lost 4-1 at Colorado, then sounded off about all the trade talk.

"Everything just takes a life of its own," he said. "I feel like I'm in a fish bowl, which is really unfortunate because all I want to do is win and play and have fun. The only thing that is missing in 'Tradegate' is the paparazzi on my back yard or collecting garbage out of my garbage can."

With closer Billy Wagner on the disabled list, Philadelphia bolstered its bullpen by acquiring two relievers: Felix Rodriguez from San Francisco and Todd Jones from Cincinnati.

The Phillies sent outfielder Ricky Ledee to the Giants, giving them a left-handed hitter to help Barry Bonds.

Utilityman and pinch-hitter Dave Hansen rejoined the San Diego Padres, who got him from Seattle for minor league pitcher Jon Huber.

Among other names in the mix were Philadelphia infielder Placido Polanco and Detroit closer Ugueth Urbino, who attracted interest from Oakland and San Francisco.

"There are so many irons in the fire," Tampa Bay General Manager Chuck LaMar said. "I think you'll see a lot of movement [Saturday]."

LaMar helped get the trade season in full swing by sending Zambrano and minor league pitcher Bartolome Fortunato to the Mets for their best pitching prospect — Scott Kazmir — and minor league pitcher Jose Diaz.

For Benson, who can become a free agent after this season, and minor league infielder Jeff Keppinger, the Mets traded reliever Ty Wigginton, highly touted prospect pitcher Matt Peterson and infielder Jose Bautista to the Pirates. The Mets got Bautista earlier in the deal from Kansas City for minor league catcher Justin Huber.

"We're getting younger and transforming our roster that a year ago or two years ago was one of the oldest in baseball," Mets General Manager Jim Duquette said.

No fight left in Iron Mike

By JOHN CLAY
Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

IT was near the end of the third round Friday night in Freedom Hall when the fan sitting beside me, the fan wearing the Tyson hat, let out a sigh of significant sorrow.

"Mike," said the older African-American gentleman who had found his way onto press row, "ain't what he used to be."

One round later, Mike Tyson was on his back.

No great comeback. No further need for the Mellow Mike Makeover. No mas.

Danny Williams, a 265-pound English muffin of little note, made it so, shocking everyone but himself by knocking out Tyson with nine seconds remaining in the fourth round of their scheduled 10-rounder.

Looks like Tyson is going to have to find another way to earn his way out of that \$38 million of debt.

Because Mike Tyson is officially over, oh so over.

Funny that it came to an end in Louisville, of all places. "I'm not sure where he's going to go from here," admitted Tyson's trainer Freddie Roach. "He's 38 years old."

Tyson is an old 38, a beaten 38, a fighter without a championship belt in eight years, or a fighter in 17 months.

Ring rust? Try ring rot. He still packed the Hall, not for what he is, but for what he was.

Williams exposed the current Tyson as a diminished boxer who tried but could not flatten Williams in the first round Friday night. Not that Tyson didn't make a valiant attempt. He tried to recapture his prime, thundering out of his corner. He seemed to hurt the taller Englishman midway through the first round, but he couldn't put Williams on the mat.

Emboldened by his ability to stay on his feet, the challenger started fighting back. The harder Williams fought back, the more Tyson wavered. By round three, you, as

well as the Tyson fan beside you, could feel the tide turning. By the start of the fourth round, the fan was muttering, as if he himself couldn't believe it.

"He's going to knock Mike out," he said. Which is exactly what Williams did. Tyson did seem to at least slightly injure himself in the first round. At one point, Tyson grabbed for his leg. Afterward, his corner claimed the former heavyweight champ suffered a twisted knee or a pulled muscle. Even after that, however, Tyson came back to throw good, hard shots. Just not hard enough.

He's just not that fighter. Not anymore. He hasn't been that fighter for maybe 16 years. Truth be told, he wasted it all on a rape conviction, other legal troubles, mental problems, money woes.

As one stunned fan said afterward, "It's sad."

What was supposed to be the beginning of a comeback became a curtain.

And how Team Tyson had tried to put a shiny new countenance on that tattooed Tyson face after the past few weeks. Menacing Mike played the Mellow Mike. He talked, he politeness. He signed autographs. He functioned as if an actual member of the human race.

Yes, for one night, anyway, Freedom Hall slipped into a different world, an alternative universe of striped suits and plunging necklines and mysterious characters huddling in the shadows. For one night, Louisville, for what its worth, Louisville was the center of the boxing universe.

Tyson made it so, those reports of an irrelevant Tyson seemed exaggerated by fight time. Most every seat was filled. Official attendance: 17,273.

They cheered "Iron Mike," Tyson "boomed" when he walked to the ring. They booed Williams upon the Englishman's introduction. They roared in those early moments when Tyson appeared headed full steam ahead for a first-round KO.

In the end, with Tyson not up against the ropes but laying at the bottom of them, the man beside me put his head into his hands.

It's not just that Mike ain't what he used to be. Mike Tyson is done.



A bloodied Mike Tyson moments before being knocked out Friday night.

Tyson: Handlers cite knee injury

TYSON, FROM BACK PAGE

Tyson, who left without talking, won the first three rounds, but Williams was landing well to the head. When he began throwing punch after punch with Tyson near a neutral corner, Tyson couldn't answer back.

It was Tyson's first fight in 17 months, and only his second since taking a beating from former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis two years ago. But Lewis was a legitimate world champion, while the 31-year-old Williams' biggest claim to fame was winning the British heavyweight title.

Tyson was desperately trying to resurrect a career that made him more than \$300 million who he squandered, but the loss to a 9-1 underdog perhaps signals the end of an era in the heavyweight division.

Roach credited Williams with fighting a good fight, but said Tyson was hampered by the injury.

"It's kind of hard to pivot and throw some shots without your left knee," Roach

said. "But Danny Williams surprised a lot of us."

The crowd of 17,253 came to see a knock-out by Tyson, and when Tyson rocked Williams with a big uppercut and some left hooks in the first two rounds it looked like they would get what they came for.

But Tyson was cut in the third round, and Williams showed he was going to be the bully in this fight. He hit Tyson on the break, losing a point, then hit him low, and the referee took another hit.

The bully was being bullied, and Tyson couldn't stand up to it.

"Every single round that went by, his punching power seemed to grow less," Williams said. "So I knew I was going to take him."

Tyson's record fell to 50-5-2 and the loss was his first in a non-title fight.

Tyson earned about \$8 million for the 57th fight of a pro career that began 19 years ago. He could only lose \$2 million of it, with the rest going to pay off some of the \$38 million he owes to creditors, under a bankruptcy reorganization plan.

SPORTS



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Tyson down for the count

Notorious ex-champ KO'd by British journeyman in 4th round

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The end came with the shocking suddenness of many Mike Tyson fights. First, the flurry of devastating punches, then a fighter falling bleeding to the canvas.

Even more shocking was that fighter was Tyson himself.

A comeback born out of financial desperation didn't go past the fourth round Friday night when an unheralded British heavyweight by the name of Danny Williams knocked Tyson out with a savagery that may have once and for all exposed Tyson as a short fighter.

At the age of 38, Tyson ran out of energy after trying to put Williams down for the first three rounds and was driven to the canvas with a final right hand that may have signaled the end of his hopes to become a serious heavyweight contender again.

"Once I hurt him I just let go," Williams said. "I just kept punching and punching."

Beaten and battered, Tyson laid helplessly along the ropes, blood flowing down his face. The former baddest man on the planet stared ahead with a look of resignation on his face as his latest comeback — and perhaps his tumultuous career — collapsed along with him.

On Saturday, Tyson's manager claimed his fighter tore a ligament in his left knee in the first round.

Shelly Finkel said an MRI showed a complex tear of the lateral meniscus, and that Tyson couldn't even walk on the leg Saturday. He said Tyson's ex-wife Monica, who is a doctor, read the results.

"That's why he couldn't throw the right hand the rest of the fight," Finkel said. "I was screaming at him to throw it, but he couldn't."

In his corner after the fight, Tyson apologized to his trainer. Across the ring, Williams celebrated and then proposed to his girlfriend — who accepted.

And somewhere, lawyers began trying to figure out how Tyson could pay off \$38 million in debt when his asking price will surely plunge after such a devastating defeat.

"People forget this isn't a peak Mike Tyson. This was a Mike Tyson who was 38 years old," Williams said. "I thought I could win."

Williams ended a wild slugfest with a flurry of punches that sent Tyson sprawl-



CINCINNATI ENQUIRER/AP

Mike Tyson watches referee Dennis Alfred count him out on a knockout in the fourth round by Danny Williams at Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky., Friday. Tyson, \$38 million in debt, had hoped to start a comeback that would return him to the top of the heavyweight division.

ing into the ropes late in the fourth round. With blood streaming down his face, Tyson appeared to contemplate the end, then made a halfhearted effort to get up before the fight was called to an end at 2:51 of the fourth round.

"I'm sorry, I'm disappointed," Tyson told trainer Freddie Roach.

"You don't have to be sorry with me," Roach replied.

The fight was a free-for-all from the opening bell before an excited crowd at a nearly full Freedom Hall. Tyson landed some huge left hooks early, only to take punishment himself when Williams got over his initial stage fright and began brawling.

Fighting in Muhammad Ali's hometown before a crowd that cheered his every move, Tyson tried with every punch to score the kind of spectacular knockout that

would make him a heavyweight contender once again.

But Williams wouldn't go down, weathered the storm, and then came back to dish out more punishment. He improved to 32-3 with 27 knockouts.

"He was a strong guy with a lot of heart," Roach said of Williams. "He showed us things that we didn't see in films. He seized the opportunity of a lifetime."

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